

Forestry wages have risen by an average of 15 percent. As practice has shown, however, many enterprises still prefer to reduce directly the numbers of workers in low-level units: forest wardens, expert foresters and, less often, forestry inspectors. We can only be alarmed at this, for such an approach does little to help increase production or improve technology, not to mention measures for mechanizing and reducing manual labour. Production specialization and concentration are developing on only a limited scale. Local agencies are unfortunately not radically restructuring their managements; they are playing essentially a waiting game and have leaned towards getting a capital allotment from the budget, rather than seeking financial resources from within. During inquiries we found that, for example, in the Irkutsk Forestry Directorate and in the Uzbekistan Ministry of Forestry, officials made virtually no attempt to find funds for conversion to the new payment modes, standardizing documents lay undistributed, and both enterprise directors and the workers at large knew only by hearsay the gist of the improved pay system.

We can provide incentives for doing more work with fewer people only if advanced forms of organizing labour and paying wages are introduced everywhere: payment by the job, indirect piece work (in service industries) and contracts made with worker teams and whole bodies of employees.

We are aware of the experience of the Goryachiy Klyuch Logging and Sawmill Operation in the Krasnoyarsk Kray, where authorities made maintenance crew wage payment directly dependent on final results: the crew got 30 kopecks for each cubic meter of timber handled on the lower landing. Administrators used this crew as a basis for establishing an All-Union School of Advanced Practice.