

be achieved the assignation of lands under leasing regulations or the transfer of a quota from the allowable cut must be more rigorously enforced that at present, and remain outside the responsibilities of the forestry agencies."

A.V. Petukhov, Vologda National-Territorial Electoral District, Member of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR. "Valerii Aleksandrovich, you understand very well that forests are divided into coniferous and non-coniferous, valuable and non-valuable. What is your attitude to the fact that included among the spruce forests and coniferous species are forests containing only 35 percent of coniferous trees? Also, what is your attitude to the felling of 80-year old forests? For the forests are actually being destroyed at present, by being incorporated in the State felling programme. If you become the Minister, will it be your intention to radically change this situation, restore the true yield of our forests and change the felling age?"

V.A. Shubin. "There are two questions here. First is the true yields. The thought that comes to me is that by using the full resources of the Ministry of Forestry, taking into account the forest planning enterprises, in some of the territories it would be possible, should the need arise, to verify the condition of the forests with a minimum of delay and restore the true state of affairs. Secondly, as regards changing the felling age, this is of course, the lever by which you control the volume of felling. On the question of the categorization of the forests, drawing them into the green belts of towns and settlements and linking them with sources of water supply, my position will be unambiguous: raise the felling age and thereby curtail the volume of logging operations. The felling age should not be 80 years, but 100. In that event, a portion of the stands would be exempt from felling. This applies precisely to those territories which I mented earlier. Currently, however, every effort is being made to lower the felling age. That is why a review of felling ages should be undertaken as soon as possible. It is a requirement which is keenly felt when working at the site. These matters are of fundamental importance, since the fate of the forests is of concern to every person in our country".