

and mechanical wood processing sector is proceeding at a five times slower pace than in the 1970s. Production of the main types of wood products per cubic metre of logged timber in the USSR is three times less than that of the USA and 2.5 times less than Sweden, Canada, Czechoslovakia and the GDR.

We can protect our forests by logging whatever is required to perpetuate the biological life cycle of the forest. This is why I am against excluding vast tracts of forests, particularly in the European and Urals areas where most of the country's timber is harvested, from felling. Here logging is prohibited on an area exceeding 60 million hectares. The preserved forests are rotting as they stand with the result that every year tens of millions of cubic metres of timber are lost.

Increasing the amount of timber logged up to a reasonable limit is one way of eliminating the country's wood products shortage, which is currently estimated at 20-25 million cubic metres annually. Another way to do this would be to increase output of useable products per cubic metre of timber processed.

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The Ministry has developed a programme whereby the demand for furniture will be met in full by 1993 and the required quantities of various popular types of printing paper will be produced by 1994. This will require an allocation of 11.2 billion roubles during the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan. Preliminary data indicate that a lesser amount will be allotted.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

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Page 1 (Excerpts)