

centre in Tynda to develop the zone around the Baikal-Amur Railway and to create a temporary group consisting of the country's leading researchers and scholars with the aim of elaborating a program to fully develop the area. The first group to support this effort was the Moscow Geography Institute under the USSR Academy of Sciences with which Dr. Ilina is affiliated.

Question: "Dr. Ilina, what is the main ecological problem connected with the Baikal-Amur Railway, in your opinion?"

Answer: "There is no effort being made today to study environmental conditions along the whole of the Baikal-Amur Railway. The Irkutsk Geography Institute only studies the western area, the Chitinsk Institute of Natural Resources only studies its own area, and the Amur Complex Scientific Research Institute only studies the central area. As far as I know, there is no study in progress of the whole of the Baikal-Amur area. This is a major error. Even scattered observations show disturbing tendencies in environmental changes throughout this area. Monitoring is required, the constant surveillance of interaction between man, technology, and nature.

My institute is making its contribution towards resolving this problem. At the request of the Central Council, we are preparing an ecological map of the railway area which will show all the 'hot' spots."

Question: "Where are they?"

Answer: "Mainly around Lake Baikal. The data at my disposal indicate that on the railway side