

We apply administrative measures as well. Maria A. Sukhova, for example, a storeroom worker, used to be employed here. We all knew of her weakness for spirits. She showed up at work drunk and was punished. The second time, when she was found to be drunk early in the morning, we sent her for an obligatory course of treatment. She came back from that but then, for a third time, she drank too much. We had to fire her. It was too bad since she had just one month to go before she could go on pension. But there was no other choice: neither measures nor threats helped.

"This was last summer. Since then we have had no similar incidents. We have sent three employees to the detoxification clinics. Our main task is to get rid of drunkenness in daily life."

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Editorial comment

If we look at the statistics, the situation isn't too threatening: the incidence of absenteeism and of registration in the detoxification clinics is on the decline.

However, if we examine the rosy accounts supplied by the local authorities to the Trade Union Central Committee, and do some basic arithmetic with the data, this happy picture vanishes in a moment.

Judge for yourself. The percentage of enterprises in our industry which have set up anti-alcohol groups, is almost the same as the percentage throughout the country as a whole. But