

PULP AND PAPER

Government Acts to Rectify the Paper Shortage

On instructions received from the USSR State Planning Commission (Gosplan), the composite department of Gosplan's wood chemistry unit has carefully examined the articles "The Illusion of the Limit to Subscriptions" and "Is the Paper Shortage Severe?" (Lesnaya Promyshlennost' July 14 and August 27, 1988) and reports as follows:

For the most part, the articles have correctly represented the situation that has developed with respect to the growth of the pulp-and-paper industry and the supply of paper for the publication of periodicals. In drawing up the 12th Five-Year Plan, based on the existing financial and material resources, annual growth rates of the order of 3 per cent and 5 to 6 per cent respectively were foreseen for newsprint and printing paper. In making these projections it was borne in mind that the growth rate of the periodicals would not exceed two to three per cent annually.

The removal of the restrictions on subscriptions during the period 1986 - 1988 resulted in increased runs of newspapers and magazines in the amount of 19,600,000 copies in 1988 in comparison with 1987. The circulations foreseen for the current year in the Five-Year Plan have been exceeded by 6.9 per cent for newspapers and by 8.9 per cent for magazines and have reached a level of 291 newspapers and 372 magazines per 100 families, which makes it possible to satisfy in full the demands of the readership. In the process, the subscription to "Argumenty i Fakty" has tripled, while that for