

Of course, it is difficult to bring to its knees, a large publishing house such as "Pravda", but even its specialists have become puzzled.

"Yes, we have had some surprises," says V. Rusakov, head of the newsprint section. "For instance, the Uglegorsk mill on Sakhalin is planning to deliver to us 2,851 tons of newsprint in the second half of the year, while the plan for the first half called for slightly more than one thousand tons. It is an obvious arrhythmia!"

But this is not the only reason for the deteriorating newsprint supplies. By now the "newspaper" enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry have stockpiles of over 13,000 tons of finished product. The fault lies mainly with the railroads. So far this year the Paper and Pulp Combine at Balakhna has seen no delivery of more than 400 railroad cars, while the Solikamsk Combine received no more than 850 railroad cars. The situation improved slightly during September. But apparently the credit for it does not go exclusively to the railroad people.

"Recently I had a look at the operations report," says A. Titova, a specialist at the Ministry of the Timber Industry. "The shipping of newsprint from Balakhna had increased abruptly. On some days they managed to unload from twelve to fifteen thousand tons instead of two to five thousand, as was the case in August. I phoned the enterprise and asked what had happened. They told me that they had had visitors from the Central Committee of the Party and the Council of Ministers. It was their assistance that made the difference. Some time later the report resumed its usual appearance. Apparently, the administrators of the Gorkii railroad assumed that the danger was over."