

not finding an application. Are you saying that all this denotes progress?"

A. "I would say yes. A mechanized unit for the preparation of the soil, planting of saplings and tending fellings in which the wood is converted into chips has already been devised. We intend to manufacture during the current year 370 tractor-mounted units for silvicultural operations."

Q. "What is happening in the sawmilling industry?"

A. "This is where one of the main problems exists, namely the introduction of automated flows and small capacity unitised sawmills (up to 100,000 cubic metres of output per year) based on the use of band saws, together with sophisticated equipment providing for complete utilization of raw material and sawmilling wastes. It is difficult for us to cope with this ourselves. Accordingly, discussions were held in February with representatives of the Japanese firms "Tairiku Trading" and "Tanaka". We are planning to initiate joint production at the Irkutsk experimental mechanical plant. Beginning in approximately 1990 the enterprise will manufacture three to five of these unitised assemblies per year.

"In the board and furniture industry the emphasis will be on imported equipment. The combined Soviet-West German-Swiss firm "SB-Engineering" which was founded in 1988 will be delivering wood fibreboard production lines (dry method) to the Novovyatsk and Novoyeniseiskii woodworking combines. Contracts are about to signed for deliveries of machinery for the reprofiling of the Voloshskoye pulp-and-paper mill. We are planning a further eight proposals for the purchase of wood fibreboard and