

Q. "And from where will the finances come for these purposes?"

A. "From payments for forest resources, secondary processing of all unmarketable timber at integrated enterprises, and development of the harvesting of minor forest products.

We need this money not only for technical re-equipment, but also for development of the social infrastructure. Today, there is no sector in the country which is in a less favoured position in this respect than forestry. Judge for yourselves: availability of housing is 40%, public health clinics 17%, kindergartens and day care centres 29%, pioneer camps 25%. Eighty two roubles are allotted for the social needs of a single worker in the sector. By comparison, this indicator is 633 roubles for geologists and 1,840 roubles in the Ministry of the Gas Industry.

The figures simply cannot be compared. It is time to put an end to this age old injustice.

All these problems are reflected in the Draft Concept of the Effects of Perestroika in Soviet Forestry to the year 2005. An enormous task lies ahead but we are obliged to carry it out."

Q. "One last question. In the draft of the general principles of restructuring of economic management and the social sphere in the Union republics it is stated that this will call for a refinement of the functions of a number of Union departments, including the USSR State Committee for Forestry. What is your opinion on this score?"