

Also growing like mushrooms are the "informal" Party publications. In particular, the district committees of the Party have taken it upon themselves recently to launch more than 20 newspapers... Is it not a luxury to expend paper on these newly emergent district publications when the publishing house of the CC CPSU, from where the overwhelming majority of the central newspapers are issued, is operating without a guaranteed supply of raw material?

The funds allocated for paper are being cut, which is regrettably a normal phenomenon given the existing deficit situation, but why is Sovetskaya Rossiya again being done out of its share? Even though to all outward appearances equality is being observed, i.e. in all of the Union republics an identical quantity of paper is being cut, the State order constitutes the greatest share in the plans of the printing trades workers and publishers, amounting to 85 per cent of the total. So as not to disrupt the fulfillment of the State order (which is mainly for the production of textbooks and children's literature), the RSFSR State Committee for the Publishing Industry (Goskomizdat) was forced to take paper back from the book publishers and place them on hunger rations. Many writers are being denied the opportunity to publish their works and readers must go without hundreds of thousands of copies of books about Russia, its history and culture.

We need to look into the situation that has arisen and introduce order in the distribution of paper, which has become a strategic raw material. Apparently, a temporary committee attached to the government is to be formed in order to draw up a programme to rescue the country from the "paper crisis". It is no longer acceptable that a country possessing a quarter of the world's growing stock of trees occupies one of the lowest rungs on the ladder when it comes to the production of paper.