

construction of new facilities. Construction undertakings for the beginning of the current year amount to just 39% of the norm.

The level of labour mechanization in logging operations stands at just 46%. More than half of the industry's employees are involved in manual operations. Our logging equipment is obsolete.

The logger's job is made all the more difficult by the extremely unfavourable living conditions. The introduction of new housing per worker in the logging industry stands at almost half that of the country's average. Logging settlements are provided with only 60-70% of standard preschool facilities, schools, clubs, clinics and hospitals. The low profitability of the logging enterprises makes it impossible to increase resources spent on solving social problems.

When one adds to all this the fact that the logging sector is one of the few branches of the timber industry which does not have a six-day work week, one should not be surprised that approximately 20,000 workers leave their jobs each year.

The situation is no better in the wood processing sectors. Fifty-eight percent of the existing pulp and paper enterprises, for example, were already in operation at the beginning of the twentieth or even the end of the nineteenth century. The service life of the equipment has been extended to 65% longer than the norm. Only 20% of our paper and paperboard machines meet contemporary worldwide standards.

Now let us take a look at what these deficiencies are costing us. Growth in the chemical