

matter concerning the incorrect fulfillment of a contract has been submitted to an arbitration board. We'll see how that turns out. After many years of negotiations, the Ministry of Automobile Transport and the Ministry of Chemical Machine Building are vigorously working on a system of servicing.

We are hoping that this will improve our working conditions.

Until recently, there was continuous talk that the oil-industry workers of Western Siberia were suffering from a shortage of machinery and equipment, and then I learn that Glavtyumenneftegaz gave up 500 pieces of machinery. What happened?

With some types of equipment, we're having difficulties even now. However, in the past, a truck or tractor was often discarded or used for spare parts after only two years of use. Today, profit and loss accounting is teaching us to be more economical.

Take the problem of prices. We make our own vacuum compressor stations for 30,000-40,000 roubles, whereas "Kazankompressormash" charges 250,000 roubles. A prefabricated pumping station costs us 250,000 roubles, while "Uralkhimmash" charges us 800,000 roubles. The Ministry of Chemical Machine Building and the Ministry of the Electrical Engineering Industry and Power Machine Construction increased their prices on machinery by 17,000,000 roubles over one year, but its performance remained the same. Their excuse is that they have to pay off their debts. Only last year, we were signing these agreements uncomplainingly. After all, that State was paying! We now agree to pay higher prices only if there is cause to.