

and the number of plantings. Nobody paid for the final product: for the plantings transferred to the forested area. We are suggesting a different approach: it is precisely for the transfer of plantings to the forested area or the establishment of valuable stands that payment should be made. This will radically change the assessment of all reforestation work.

But sources of financing will be essential if we are to put this into practice. A real forest will not grow out of the 60 roubles which are allotted in some regions for a hectare of plantings. For this amount of money you can create only the appearance of work. This is simply burying money in the ground.

But the financing problems remain unresolved. Our proposals, as I have already said, are still under discussion."

Q. "Aleksandr Sergeevich, we all know that the Government's financial situation is not without its difficulties. Where is forestry to get the almost half a billion roubles that it needs?"

A. "In essence, we will earn this money. The world over, the stumpage fee, being the statutory price of standing timber, is considered to be fair compensation for the socially necessary expenditures on reforestation and forest management. It must be returned to forestry and we shall be fully able to get by on these moneys, especially since it is being proposed that the stumpage fee be increased by a factor of 1.8, although this is many times less than in other developed countries.