

The third problem is our failure to utilize raw material - timber - in a rational manner. We have perhaps the world's worst track record in this respect. It suffices to say that we utilize no more than 70% of the timber we log.

Finally, the Ministry has failed to meet market demands for paper, furniture, railway ties, and a number of other products. Busygin has been in charge of this sector of the industry for fifteen years. These fifteen years have shown us that he is incapable of doing a good job. Those who love nature should not support his candidacy.

V.S. Yakutis, Team Leader from the Pinchuga logging enterprise of the "Boguchanles" Association.

Unlike the previous speaker, I support Busygin. I believe we should identify major environmental hazards outside the industry. Among the major culprits are the oil and gas industry, as well as the power industry, which has "drowned" tens of millions of hectares of forest.

I have identified several areas in which improvements could be made. Firstly we should establish only permanently-operating enterprises. We will log less wood but make better use of it. For example, in the Lesosibirsk okrug we harvest 14 million cubic metres of timber annually and four million cubic metres are left as waste. The "Boguchanles" enterprise cuts 400 cubic metres of soft-wooded broadleaved timber for which there is no application. We need wood fiberboard and wood particle board plants to utilize these resources.

Secondly, we need to stop the loose float immediately.