

Deputy General Director for Commercial Matters,
L. Nefedov.

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Paper Consumption by Government Departments: Cost and Quantity

Letter to the Editor

Everywhere you hear: "there isn't enough paper to publish books, magazines and newspapers". But has anyone given a thought to the question of how much paper the ministries spend on their needs?

V. Savchuk
Kiev

Here is what the Chairman of the State Committee for Printing, N. Efimov, said in reply to a question from the People's Deputies in the course of a session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR:

"For the promulgation of orders (prikazy) and dispositions (rasporiyazhenii), and for correspondence and other needs, our ministries require exactly 130,000 tonnes of paper."

But this, as they say, is a dry figure. What is the cost of it? We cite the following example: for a publishing house to produce printed matter, let us say, books valued at 100 million roubles, approximately 30,000 tonnes of paper are