

### Welfare Benefits in Place of Pay

The losses suffered by the Northern Railroad as a result of strikes by the miners of Vorkuta have been tallied. They exceed 5.6 million rubles for November and one week of October.

The Northern line has four or five "abandoned" coal trains every day. The railroad stations serving the Cherepovets Metallurgical Combine have strayed from the normal pace of operations: Local transport workers have been unable to allocate incoming coal to their approach lines. It literally goes straight from the car into the coke-over battery. But depot reserves still need to be replenished. And although daily unloading operations in Cherepovets are above plan levels, both people and equipment are working under great strain - re-establishing a normal operating rhythm is not easy. All of this is also a consequence of the strike, the result of lengthy delays in the coal transportation system.

Of course, "abandoned" rolling stock entails unwarranted losses in the form of material and physical outlays, but not all of them are reflected in the figure of more than five million. Why is this?

"Alas, the echo from the collective irresponsibility of the Vorkuta people has carried so far that one cannot immediately determine where it stops - whom or what it will touch," says V. Rogov, deputy head of the Northern's transportation service. "On the whole, however, a method for calculating losses from the strike has been worked out. It's a bitter experience, but it now is part of our reality..."