

The situation has been further compounded by the government's directive to all ministries and departments to increase the output of consumer goods, as this greatly increased the requirement for boxboard for the packaging of goods other than foodstuffs. It turned out that neither the USSR State Planning Commission (Gosplan) nor the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry (Minlesprom SSSR) was prepared for the sharp increase in demand. Consequently, in this year alone the deficit with respect to boxboard has amounted to 260,000 tonnes (20 per cent of the requirement).

At the present time, not a single enterprise of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry is being built or rebuilt, which is a virtual guarantee of a further increase in the boxboard deficit. Moreover, not only is Minlesprom SSSR not increasing the production of boxboard. It is not even taking the necessary steps to retain the capacities already in place. For this year alone, citing ecological and technological reasons, boxboard production at Minlesprom SSSR enterprises has been cut by 57,000 tonnes.

The impression created is that the ministry responsible to the nation and the public for satisfying the demands of the economy for boxboard has given it up as a bad job. Judge for yourselves. In 1989 the "Svetogorsk" Production Association shut down a machine for the production of 22,000 tonnes of boxboard, citing ecological reasons. As of the first of January next year it is proposing to shut down a second machine also producing 22,000 tonnes. The same reason is given. The combine is claiming that the purification plants are overloaded due to the start up of toilet paper production and a deterioration in the entrapment of fibrous materials.