

Resource - Saving Technologies Rather than Increased Fellings Needed to Make Good the Timber Deficit

Only two weeks are left of this year, which has been such a difficult one in every respect. The country's attention is now riveted on earthquake-stricken Armenia. There is not a republic, Oblast, district, enterprise or individual who would not make a contribution to help the sufferers. Humanitarianism and a desire to offer effective help to victims of the catastrophe unite all Soviet citizens and compel them to redouble their efforts in these trying days. Our "economic ship" has a sustained a grievous hole. How much timber alone will now be needed to restore the ruined cities of Armenia!

The timber supply situation, alas, shows no sign of improvement. In November, the indebtedness increased and at the start of the year will amount to almost 522 million roubles. It is clear that the sector must put an end to the losses as soon as possible at almost half of its enterprises and introduce everywhere cost-effective, resource-saving technologies and progressive forms of labor organization.

The winter toil is unfolding at the forest plots. In making the transition at the start of this year to self-financing, the loggers have no need of slogans dropped from above. They are well aware that a winter cubic metre is two or three times cheaper to produce, and this is fully in accord with the demands of radical reform and their own interests. That is why it is already planned to extract 100 million cubic metres of timber in the first quarter of the coming year.

But this of course is not the main task. Each of these cubic metres must become raw material for high-quality output. It is not by accident that we are emphasising quality. While rejects at woodworking and pulp-and-paper enterprises are unacceptable to the State, for the loggers it is their conscience which stands in the way of waste. In this sense, it is hard to understand the workers of "Irkutsklesprom" who supplied "Irkutskmebel'" with rotten roundwood instead of good-quality sawlogs. Well, the consumers' claims for replacement will fall on the head of the furniture makers. And so will the fines...