

This is not the first year now that the river port has been operating at ten to fifteen percent of its operational capacity.

On the nineteenth of January this year the question of speeding up the opening of the port of Sergino for the transshipment of freight was discussed in the presence of representatives of the USSR Ministry of Railways, the USSR Ministry of Transport-Related Construction Works, the USSR Ministry of the Gas Industry and the Ministry of the River Fleet of the Russian SFSR. Those present took note of the announcement made by the Ministry of the River Fleet of the Russian SFSR with regard to the fact that its second phase development for the reception of freight for transshipment from rail to water transport was ready. It was also proposed that the Sverdlovsk Railway Administration, in collaboration with the Ob'-Irtysk River Steamship Line, should provide for the transshipment of construction industry freight at the port of Sergino in the 1988 plan. This would cover the declared amount of freight on the basis of the temporary agreement.

Moreover, at the beginning of this year a document was sent to the Ob'-Irtysk Steamship Line from the Deputy Minister of Railways, F. Fadeev. The document stated that "with the aim of utilizing the facilities, the Ministry of Railways believes it would be possible to carry out the transshipment of construction industry freight on the basis of the temporary agreement following current practices". As far as the rivermen are concerned, they set about carrying out these solutions.

Moreover, in March, a representative of the Ob'-Irtysk Steamship Line visited the Ministry of Railways with the idea of co-ordinating activities. But the horse is still in the stable, as they say. The State Supply Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers gave the port