

TIMBER AND WOODWORKING

Drop in Timber Production Anticipated for 1990
(Excerpts from a speech by the Minister of the Timber Industry to a plenary session of the Central Committee of the Trade Union)

In a recent report by the USSR State Committee for Statistics (Goskomstat) on the socioeconomic development of the country during the nine months of 1989 just ended it is stated that the greatest lag in the fulfillment of obligations for deliveries of products was permitted to occur in enterprises of the wood chemistry industrial complex. The country has been undersupplied to the extent of 1.5 billion roubles worth of products, including more than half a million roubles worth by our ministry.

There can be no denying that despite all of the efforts being made, the situation in our sector is still very strained. The rates of increase in production, worker productivity and scientific and technological advances, and in the solving of social problems, fall short of the Five-Year targets. The directors of a number of associations and enterprises are not making full use of the rights accorded to them. Some of them have made no attempt to solve the problems that have arisen. What is one to make of the fact that a number of associations have still not accepted the State order for the delivery of consumer goods in 1989 valued at more than 100 million roubles? We have no alternative but to make an overall change in the contracting procedure, because the situation with respect to the conclusion of contracts for 1990 is very serious.

Here, many have criticized our ministry for the unbalanced state of the production targets without mentioning, however, their own enterprises, the USSR Council of Minister and the USSR State Planning Commission (Gosplan), on whom the