

by 40 percent in the Amur Oblast and 15 percent in the Khabarovsk Krai. Burnt over areas and felling sites that have failed to regenerate themselves account for hundreds of thousands of hectares. Nor should we take pride in the fact that only a third of the trees being felled are used for production: the remainder are going to waste.

In short, the forest complex is beset by numerous and profoundly serious ills and they need to be comprehensively treated. With this in mind, it is proposed to prohibit second fellings of scientifically validated allowable cuts throughout the entire territory of the RSFSR beginning in 1991 and to make sure that this doesn't occur in the future. It is true that ten years ago the USSR Council of Ministers announced just such a decision, but every year it has authorized by way of an exception the overfelling of allowable cuts and this is still taking place today.

The sensible thing to do would be to restore to the General Forest Lands Administered by the State (Goslesfond) the territories which were ceded to provide for integrated timber enterprises and also to introduce a State forestry service. Beginning next year and continuing thereafter all the logging departments and other organizations will only be permitted to cut trees on conditions that they regenerate the areas being felled. As regards the non-reforested areas of past years, and these amount to hundreds of thousands of hectares, concrete measures must be worked out jointly with the logging departments for their regeneration.

Many criticisms have been voiced in the Committee on Ecological Matters and the Rational Use of Natural Resources over the fact that the forestry bodies are themselves engaging in activities to do with logging. In my view, the forest district, as the main link in the structure of forestry, must be freed from activities pertaining to the timber industry which are not characteristic of it. Its main field of activity is ecological. A forest resources inventory must be conducted annually with the participation of People's Deputies, the public and the Committee for Nature Conservation.