

The main reason for the loss of this substantial reserve lies in the fact that the logging industry is simply not prepared to carry on non-continuous fellings. As they say, so near and yet so far. For many a long year, on the basis of the same concept of the boundless nature of the forest resources, the logging industry has been focusing solely on localised clear fellings. The country lacks the technology for performing selection fellings which would not have a disruptive effect on the ecology. This is particularly true of mountainous regions, where technology based mainly on aerial skidding is needed. We have virtually no cable installations or technologies for either selection fellings or localized clear commercial fellings.

Thus, the shortfalls in the nations's supply of forest products are not due to a lack of forest resources. The latter exist, though they are by no means boundless. The only question is how to utilize them efficiently.

#### A complex of measures is needed

The forest utilization problem is being widely discussed at present by managers, specialists and scientists. Various ways of solving it are being proposed. Some see the only way out in the creation of integrated forest enterprises. However, as three years' experience shows, their formation within the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry has so far failed to improve things. Instead of going over to non-exhaustive and sustained use, in 1988 the integrated enterprises in the Karelian ASSR and the Perm' and Sverdlovsk Oblasts increased over-cutting of the planned coniferous coupes, and this threatens the very existence of the enterprises. Logging without a permit is often allowed in them and stands are designated for felling which have not reached the age of maturity; wood is discarded at fellings, undercuts are left; the understory is destroyed and cross-cutting into lengths is done inefficiently. Inspection of the felling sites by the integrated logging enterprises themselves does not uncover all the violations: often it is not done at all. Thus, at the integrated forestry enterprises in the Irkutsk Oblast, the volume of timber discarded in the felling areas has been understated by a factor of three. Improvement fellings are done with serious infractions there. The same picture is