

metres of printing paper to the country's publishers. It also failed to generate 4.5 million roubles of planned profit.

It's a vicious circle. The shortage of timber has disrupted the rhythm of the production processes. This distribution stifles any willingness to work hard and results in breaches of the technical standards. Qualified staff leave. Unskilled workers come to take their place which results in more downtime of the equipment caused by accidents, which in turn increases production disruptions.

The Kama Pulp and Paper Combine's main product is printing paper. One thousand square metres of No. 2 book paper costs the publishers 16 roubles and 45 kopecks. It costs the Krasnokamsk papermakers 17 roubles and 68 kopecks to produce it. It's not difficult to calculate their losses when you realize that each day they produce more than ten million square metres of paper. The situation is easy to explain: the costs of the raw material, chemicals and materials have risen considerably over the past few years while the price of the paper has remained the same. The raw material suppliers stand to gain a lot as do the publishers - remember how rapidly the price of books has risen. It is only the papermakers, like poor relatives with outstretched hands, who have not had any of this good fortune visited upon them. They operate an unprofitable business, worrying about how to make an extra kopeck or two.

"This isn't work, it's complete chaos," comments one worker. "You work for one hour then spend two doing nothing. There are no semi-finished products to work with."