

fork out hundreds of millions of roubles worth of foreign currency."

Q. "But what if the factories of the ministries working for the forest complex were to return to their own sphere of activity, that is, to come under the roof of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry?"

A. "We have already submitted a proposal along these lines to the USSR Council of Ministers. To date, no definite decision has been reached."

Q. "What if the fate suffered by the Ministry of the Coal Industry were to be visited upon you! At one time the miners also decided to form a machine-building arm for their sector. Their former partners handed over to them what could be called a bare industrial shell, buildings, but not until they had removed the "filling" - consisting of the finest production equipment and machines."

A. "We are hoping that nothing of the sort will happen. The measures we are proposing with regard to the transfer of the machine-building plants serving the forest products sector to the Ministry of the Timber Industry will make it possible to move quickly in the direction of specialisation and cooperative arrangements and ensure optimization of nomenclature, bearing in mind an increase in the output of advanced technology to replace what has become obsolete, and a reorientation of currency funds away from the purchase of equipment in favour of the development of our own machine-building capacities. I estimate that this will give us the capability for a 2- to 2.5-fold increase in the output of machinery, and enable us more efficiently to organize its repairs and in-house servicing. The concentrating in one department of the research and development and design