

The "women's issue" has become so acute that local Party, Soviet and administrative leaders have been forced to make its solution one of their prime goals.

There is no shortage of possible solutions being put forward. Above all, the creation in this Arctic city of an enterprise to produce warm clothing for northern residents. The demand for a "northern variety" of such goods would be extremely high since not enough of them are being produced in the country.

One possibility would be to identify workplaces where women could work part of a day or part of a week. This would also succeed in providing additional employment for certain numbers of women workers. Negotiations are underway with a light industry enterprise in Krasnoyarsk to open a branch in this arctic city.

Certain concrete steps are also being taken in Norilsk. For example, the Technical Supervisory Service of the city's leading enterprise - the mining and metallurgical combine - has decided to pay veteran workers of the combine moving to the "mainland" a monetary compensation for giving up their apartments. The payments vary from 7,000 to 13,000 roubles, depending on the size of the apartments. Many of those who have already accumulated the necessary "northern qualifying time" for pensions and other benefits are now showing a desire to move to the "mainland". As a result, new job openings are appearing, including those for women. Long before the government had adopted the document increasing maternity leave for women, the Norilsk Combine had taken the same decision.

Although the actions undertaken in this Arctic city have not been on a large scale, they have nonetheless borne fruit. The number of women specialists looking for work is no longer on the increase, but the number is still quite high -