

"Soyuztermneft'". With the formation of the interdisciplinary scientific and technical group "Nefteotdacha", the supervision of the project was entrusted to it. The importance of the experiment was confirmed by its being included in the "Unified plan for the introduction of new equipment and new production processes developed by the USSR Ministry of Oil Industry".

The solid scientific foundation, one would think, should have been an assurance of the high standards and correctness of the research. However, right from the start, everything was overshadowed by the chase for tons of "hot" oil. The reliability of the information on the effectiveness of the research was sacrificed at the altar of impressive reports.

In his reply to the editor, the chairman of the scientific and technical council of "Soyuztermneft'", V. Budnikov, writes: "The effectiveness of the steam heating technique is evaluated by reference to a methodology approved by the Ministry of the Oil Industry. The question has been resolved definitively. There is a real increase in oil output." A table is appended as proof of the above statement. It shows that the yield of oil is 14% instead of 4% when natural methods are used.

But let us mentally construct another table. In one column we shall place the figures for the output of oil by years in the experimental sector, and in another we shall enter figures showing how the notorious "coefficient of efficiency" was raised until it eventually reached one, which contradicts the well-known laws of physics. In this way it becomes clear by means of what simple manipulation one can, sitting thousands of kilometers away in Krasnodar, the headquarters of Soyuztermneft', make the figures impressive.