

them, that they be centrally managed and accordingly, that provision be made for the realisation of a unified scientific-technical policy, with the principles of conducting forestry operations in specially protected territories clearly defined.

### Preserving the Forests

The current standard of forest protection falls short of future requirements. Moreover, crisis phenomena have been identified in it. In particular, the situation has been sharply aggravated by the use of chemicals. A zone of radioactive contamination has been created as a result of the accident at Chernobyl'.

It is necessary to develop and introduce a system of measures that will ensure the stable functioning of forestry and the use of its products in contaminated territories.

To bring about a dramatic improvement in the standard of forest protection it is necessary to expand the area of the general forest lands administered by the State (Goslesfond), in which regular observations of the condition of the stands are combined with active control measures against forest pests and diseases.

Fire protection arrangements must be instituted in all of the country's forests, based on the formation of a special system for controlling forest fires. This will necessitate extending by the year 2005 the actively protected area of Goslesfond to 1,157,000 hectares, initially by putting a stop to the increase in the number of fires of human origin, and subsequently by ensuring that between 2000 and 2005 these are gradually reduced by 5 to 10 per cent annually, and also achieving a 60 to 70 per cent reduction by 2005 in the amount of damage caused to the economy by major forest fires.