

dangerous amongst them, and until we can compare waste products specific to each item of production from every enterprise, using the best available evidence in the country and the world. Without this, it is impossible to formulate a clear plan of action or estimate the resources and period of time necessary for setting up effective programmes to improve the ecology in this country.

Today these kinds of programmes are drawn up, on the whole, as a result of proposals from the enterprises themselves and from the ministries: for example, proposals to construct purification plants and to provide the relevant capital investment. As far as the territory is concerned, is this the best possible or optimum way of spending those resources? Let me remind you that these are considerable resources. This question is not even asked. And how can the efficiency of any measure be determined, since present-day programmes do not, as a rule, show to what extent the total amount of waste and specific waste and specific waste products will be changed. In other words, we do not know the final result. There is only one indicator: how many funds have been used. This is the classical pattern of a gross expenditure approach so characteristic of the national economy as a whole.

Lacking sufficiently comprehensive, systemized information about the actual situation, local Councils are deprived of the opportunity to initiate and follow up on conservation programmes. Without this, the legal authorities cannot examine cases of damage to the natural world. The general public needs this information, too.

The Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences maintains that there is a pressing need to