

protection significantly. For this reason it would be unreal. As we can see, the chief "factor" affecting an individual's health is the individual himself. Thus, if we were to follow this logic further, the State, having taken upon itself the responsibilities of providing free medical assistance, should provide it to the extent that its citizens make an effort to protect and maintain their own health, and should take into account those factors undermining health that are the fault of the individual himself and his lifestyle. In practice, however everything is different. In reality the notorious "leveller" principle reigns: everyone according to the same prescription, the same standards.

Here's an example. Last year, in one of the sovkhoses in our district, the sick rate went as high as 591 person-days, resulting in an economic loss of 49,000 rubles. The economy lost 15,000 rubles in production which was not-made up. The bulk of the expenses for treatment came from the state budget and the social insurance fund, though a fair share of the worktime losses resulted from people's careless attitudes to their own health. And in my view the costs of treatment could have been born by the "victims" themselves.

A callous attitude toward the environment results in a significant, or more precisely, an uncalculated deterioration in health. Contamination of the air, unpurified industrial effluents, ignorant use of herbicides, fertilizers and medicines lead to a dangerous deterioration of man's internal micro-environment. In our view, it is the businesses and organizations that contaminate the environment who should bear the costs of providing preventive medical services and rehabilitation in such cases.