

FORESTRY

State resources are the main source. It is a fairly simple matter to nip off a portion of the whole. In the first place, enterprising businessmen have managed to use economic levers to interest the producers of the paper and even the loggers, and thereby obtain the desired materials and by-pass the distribution system. Secondly, large amounts of printing paper, including newsprint, are being procured by departments and offices. Despite the contraction of the administrative apparatus, the bureaucracy continues to absorb up to 135,000 tonnes of paper annually.

WAYS OUT OF THE CRISIS

Many of the difficulties that we are currently experiencing on "the paper front" have been engendered by the low standard of management of the sub-sector on the part of the Ministry of the Timber Industry, the tenacity of tough managerial stereotypes, and resistance to new methodology on the part of individual managers.

The ministry continues to lack a scientifically verified strategy and tactical plan for the development of the pulp and paper industry. Certain programmes concerning increases in the production of various kinds of printing paper or the implementation of environmental protection measures are designed for not more than a five-year term. They still have not received governmental approval and are weakly coordinated with the long-term functioning of the timber complex as a whole and the associated sectors.

Demanding of the most serious attention is the reconstruction of a domestic papermaking machine-building capacity that is on a par with world analogues, or alternatively, arranging for joint enterprises of this nature with foreign firms. We cannot be for ever dependent on imported machinery and technology. Why not make use of the opportunities that are opening up as a result of the conversion?