

worsened and it became necessary to reduce the raw materials ration for the seven housing construction and woodworking enterprises that are part of "Permlesprom". Last year, for example, they were short supplied to the extent of 281 thousand cubic metres of sawtimber from coniferous species.

Well, what about the papermakers themselves? They also, despite the desperate efforts being made, were eventually placed on a meagre ration of raw materials. At first, they had just enough sawtimber to last a difficult minute. But the difficult minutes stretched into difficult days and months! Which explains why for three whole years Kama Pulp and Paper Combine has been supplied with only 70 per cent of its timber requirements. Specialists are predicting that during the current year only half of its needs will be met.

The Kama Combine is not alone in this difficult situation. Conditions at the Solikamsk Pulp and Paper Combine are just as bad. It is on paper from this combine that the country prints its newspapers eastwards and southwards of the Urals. Last year this combine received 86 per cent of the timber it needs. In 1990 its requirement will be satisfied by no more than 70 per cent.

Recently, Deputy Minister of the USSR Timber Industry V.A. Chuiko who is responsible for the work of the pulp and paper enterprises paid a visit to Perm. It immediately became clear that the Ministry's senior management were unprepared for radical actions, preferring to continue to drift aimlessly along. In holding to the inviolability of the pattern of timber consumption that had developed over the years, the Deputy Minister presented the idea at Perm that the Kama and Solikamsk pulp and paper combines no longer be subordinate to Moscow but instead, be transferred to the "Permlesprom" Association.

All this, of course, would be under the guise of some kind of "regional cost accountability".