

"And then, those northern benefits, such as the regional index and polar bonuses, have changed noticeably over the past few decades. When we began to develop the North, the government established the benefits in the knowledge that northern residents are required to live under severe climatic conditions, and that the cost of living here is significantly higher. But time has passed. Now, northern bonuses have already been cut by 80 percent. The money to pay them is found in local budgets rather than in the government budget! The sum of these payments must not exceed 300 roubles, regardless of income. I can cite you a long list of examples where the wages of southern workers, without any indexes or bonuses, have grown to be higher than those of northern workers. And that's among workers of the very same category."

"How serious is the shortage of specialists today in the atomic fleet?"

"The primary shortage is among specialists who directly service nuclear installations. For the new "Taimyr" and "Sevmorput" nuclear powered ships, which are already in service, and for the soon-to-arrive "Sovetskii Soyuz" we had to immediately recruit three crews. Part of the job has been completed. but to this day we are short about 35 people, particularly operators.

"Our specialists are trained by the Makarov Higher Engineering Academy in Leningrad (LVIMU). But instead of the 35 specialists we require each year, they send us only 12. We have to search for them in other organizations and institutions of higher learning and then retrain them."

"How did this shortage of specialists come about?"