

to other ministries. In particular, to the Ministry for the Manufacture of Construction and Road Machinery, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Automobile Industry, the Ministry of the Machine Tools Industry, etc. We were left without our own machinery supply base and were forced to go over to "underground" machine building, without receiving any financial or material resources for this."

Q. "But, after your plants were transferred to the other ministries, did you not receive from them the requisite modern production technology?"

A. "One fact alone is sufficient. In order for the operator of an LP-19 feller-buncher, for example, to complete the shift norm, he must activate the various levers 4,000 times, expending a great deal of effort in the process. Is this what you mean by modern technology? Formerly we had no equipment for the production of wood fibreboard and wood particle board, plywood, parquet, and furniture that was competitive in terms of world standards.

"Last year, the Ministry of the Machine Tools Industry (the main supplier of wood processing equipment) sold us 40 million roubles worth of machinery, but the annual requirement is 430 million roubles worth! And what sort of equipment are we talking about? In the main, positioning machines with manual feed and low reliability.

"Of the 15 ministries manufacturing machines for the forest complex, not one is producing unitized high-capacity equipment for the pulp-and-paper industry. The sector is forced to purchase it through imports. In this year alone we are having to