

Problems in the area of improvement fellings are slowly being resolved. The ban on the use of "chemistry" has presented the foresters with major problems. The main emphasis today is on mechanization and the use of roll-type brush shredders for release of planted stock. Good results (more than 300 to 400 hectares per roller) were achieved in 1988 in the Kaluga, Smolensk, Yaroslavl' Ulyanovsk, Gor'kii and Udmurt associations, and in the Tatarian and Bashkirian Ministries of Forestry. By no means everywhere, however, does this apply to mechanization problems. This equipment is being poorly used in the Krasnoyarsk Krai and the Irkutsk and Tomsk Oblasts, while in Mordovia it has been largely responsible for failures of forest plantings over an area of 26,400 hectares. This exceeds the area of the forest plantings established during the last five years.

For the Ministry as a whole, during the three years of the Five-Year Plan, reforestation has encompassed an area of 970,000 hectares (100.8 per cent of the plan); more than 100,000 hectares of forest plantations have been established through the use of mechanization; and almost 1,300,000 saplings have been upgraded to the category of economically valuable stands (101 per cent of the plan). Now that the enterprises are free to choose for themselves the methods of reforestation, and the sowing and planting volumes are no longer set by a Goszakaz (State order), in the provinces a decrease in planting volumes is only justifiable when there is the certainty that mutual assistance will result in the formation of a stand that is at least as valuable as when artificial regeneration is practised.