

stable output of furniture valued at 45 to 47 million roubles annually."

Even the articles themselves are in dispute. The producers are claiming that today the demand is already being fully met for at least four of them: No. 37 chairs, bed-sofas, wooden bedsteads, and bedroom suites. The trade office concurs only with respect to the chairs.

"All these disagreements are occurring solely on account of the fact that no one is keeping track of the demand," says the acting head of the Consumer Goods Department of Gosplan for the Buryat ASSR, O.R. Alkhunova. "As a matter of fact, it is not only here that this situation exists, but throughout the country as a whole. In my opinion, it is high time to establish self-financed regional centres for studying the demand, initially shall we say, for durables.

It would be a useful step, especially for enterprises that have become self-supporting. But for the present it is clear that in Buryatiya we still have a very long way to go before the market is saturated with furniture. It is therefore important that no time be lost in instituting an on-site search for reserves, and arranging for intelligent specialization and cooperation among producers.

This summer, a new group of furniture producing shops was commissioned as part of the BFWC. The workers' collective is successfully mastering the machinery and already it would appear that in 1989 they will be able to produce an additional two million roubles worth of articles over what was foreseen by the plan. But this will necessitate the help of skilled workers. At present,