

"There is no mechanization of any kind. Sledge-hammer and crow-bar -- that's all our "automation". This is why my fellow workers and I have arms constantly covered with cuts and abscesses. This year I have already seen a doctor twice.

Hard physical labour, poor working and living conditions -- these are perhaps the most harmful "bacteria" which, even today, still substantially undermine the health of the northerners -- construction workers, machine operators, reindeer-breeders, fishermen, and hunters. According to the calculations of experts, the portion of manual labour in the North comprises 96 per cent. Especially heavy is the burden of cattle-breeders, hunters and fishermen. On state farms, only one fifth of all teams has cross-country vehicles; motorized sledges, so essential in the tundra, are by no means used everywhere.

Another circumstance can but cause concern, namely, that reindeer-breeders and members of their families, hunters, and fishermen are still forced to live in primitive mobile dwellings -- chumas, yarangas, and tents. 3,115 families, together number 13,303 persons, lead a nomadic lifestyle with all ensuing consequences. The main bulk of them live in the Tyumen', Arkhangel'sk, and Magadan Regions, the Khabarovskii and Primorskii Territories, and the Yakutskaya ASSR -- that is, as a rule, in areas where conversion of the indigenous population to a settled lifestyle has been practically left to itself. The organization of labour and the living conditions offered by the local governing bodies to the reindeer-breeders are not acceptable, -- the indigenous inhabitants prefer to live and work in the old way.