

This is why 30-40 billion roubles is clearly not enough for Yamal and there is talk of 100-120 billion. Where is the money to come from? It will, of course, be taken away from the production facilities, which will lead to the same kind of disruption in the gas industry as the BAM (The Baykal-Amur Trunk Line) caused in the railway system.

But perhaps you have forgotten that the required sum of 20-30 billion roubles has not yet been found? The gas industry will cut its expenses and take the money from other areas, but where are the remaining 50-60 (and possibly even 90) billion roubles to come from? Will we find ourselves out of necessity skimming the funds from agriculture, public health, education, chemistry?

So what should be done? Perhaps the Yamal should not be developed? This is not what we are proposing - the door is open, the wheels have been set in motion. We offer three proposals.

The first involves coming up with a set of alternatives, as soon as possible. In our scheme of things, central among these would be deep, "secondary" exploitation of continental gas and oil reserves. How many of us are aware that there are sizeable quantities of gas here which have not yet been explored? Such work, carried out over a period of 3-5 years, and paralleled by scientific research work in Yamal could, according to a number of expert analyses, bring very considerable results, while incurring 10 times fewer expenses. If a sudden failure were to occur in Yamal in this millenium (which would be entirely understandable), then this would be the final splash along the path of extensification and the last of the great turning points of our economy in the direction of intensification.