

activity. All this could not fail to affect the professional psychology of the foresters. Many of them no longer believe in the social worth of their profession and have left it.

Whereas in the past the conduct of forestry in State owned forests brought in a large revenue, today the sector is not only failing to provide this, but has even become a petitioner and dependant of the State budget. Financing of the sector from the State budget is ten times less than what is actually needed.

The existing forest legislation is ineffective in protecting the forests against squandering and exhaustion. Legislative instruments that were drawn up at the USSR State Committee for Forestry (Goskomles), such as the regulations governing State supervision in the forests of the USSR and those pertaining to leasing, have become bogged down in the government and at USSR Gosplan. Moreover, they are running into powerful resistance from the forest based industrial complex. The currently practised separation of functions of custodian of the forest lands between various departments runs counter to the interests of the people and the State. Indeed, it is none other than a partitioning of the forests, handed over for administrative purposes to departments and organizations that are not in fact answerable for the regeneration of the forest riches and are exploiting them in the worst traditions of the colonial regime. The request by the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry which was implemented by the USSR Council of Ministers and calls for the establishment under its aegis of so called integrated forest-based industrial enterprises entailing the assignation of the rights and functions of overall boss of the forests will make it possible for the loggers to cut down the remaining forests in whatever way it suits them.