

We are making major efforts to transport the logs by boat, especially on Lake Baykal. Traditional raft floating operations result in few losses but we will be making sure that all raft construction is carried out in accordance with strict regulations.

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M.I. Busygin's Answers to Selected Questions

Question: Marshes in Karelia have been drained as a result of an intensive land amelioration programme. Trees were planted but either didn't grow at all or did very poorly. The marshes used to supply the local population with berries but now there are none. What can be done with these drained marshes? Can the draining work be reversed?

MIB: Our Ministry and a trust from the RSFSR Ministry of Forestry took over these plots a year and a half ago. We are now carefully studying the situation with A.S. Isaev. We will stop drainage work where this is required and will carry out restoration work where this is deemed really necessary. We have already stopped 80% of our marsh draining operations.

Question: What do you intend to do to improve the environmental situation in Segezha, Pitkyaranta, Kondopoga and Lyaskelya?

MIB: The Pulp and Paper Combines in Segezha, Pitkyaranta and Kondopoga all have purification systems. If there are any environmental problems there it means that the existing equipment is not being utilized properly. If I continue in my present position I will send a group of experts to these mills to advise on operation techniques.