

### The Resources Are Right At Hand - Gypsum Deposits

Nature was truly generous when she created six white flattened mounds by the mountain river Serechen, in north-eastern Yakutia. Each of these mounds is the outlet to the surface of virgin bodies of gypsum deposits.

The Scientific Council of the North-Eastern Integrated Scientific Research Institute of the Far Eastern Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences has drawn up a programme entitled "Gips", which also provides for the thorough exploitation of this natural resource, reports a TASS correspondent. According to estimates, the large-scale introduction of the gypsum produced from the Serechen deposits into the construction industry will make it possible for the people living in the Far North to save between 150,000 and 170,000 tonnes of cement every year and up to 8,000 tonnes of standard fuel. It will also reduce the manpower requirements of the construction industry by more than 5,000 workers. At the present time the enterprises based in Yakutia alone bring in about 500,000 tonnes of cement, slate and dry plaster every year. The cost of transporting all this runs to more than 16,000,000 roubles.

The predicted potential of the deposits are 1,384 million tonnes of gypsum-bearing rock. The mounds, which rise up among the valleys, are seventy five percent gypsum. These deposits can be exploited without stripping.

The list of the advantages of these northern deposits is long. In the opinion of the one of the first discoverers of the deposits, V. Merzlyakov, the development and exploitation of these resources can solve the problem of the gypsum shortage, not only for the Far North, but also for the whole country.