

A person working at the BAR must be particularly fitness conscious. He lives in a severe climate and more than anybody else, he needs hardening, beginning with the most simple thing - rubbing himself with a wet towel in the morning - and finishing with a workout in a gymnasium with swimming pools. A strange thing: employees of hydroelectric developments in Zeya and coal miners of Neryungri have built them, but the BAR workers have been unable to do so. Only Urgal has a swimming pool but even that one is not operational. The construction of a sport complex in Tynda did not include a swimming pool. Only this year we got our first kindergarten with a pool for the children. The State Planning Commission apparently approves the cost-cutting policy of the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Transport Construction, but is this the right place for cost cutting? Especially when one considers that people in the north suffer from a shortage of sunlight and vitamins...

Speaking about vitamins, do our commerce people take into account the specifics of the north when supplying groceries to the BAR?

"They do not. Our biggest problem is the lack of vegetable from approximately midwinter till almost the end of summer. Everybody, except us, are already eating fresh greens in June. Here, however, they appear only in August and in such meager quantities that kilometer-long lines appear in front of the stores. One can quote numerous other examples of the ineptness of our suppliers. There is no wide assortment of baby foods in BAR stores. Fruit and vegetable purées have become unavailable. There are few juices, and those that are unavailable come mostly in three-liter cans, whereas smaller containers would be more convenient for the buyers.