CONSTRUCTION

How To Speed Up New Housing

The first nine-storey apartment buildings here, in the very centre of the Arctic settlement of Murmashi, appeared three years ago. Their new tenants were pilots, engineers, technicians and workers from other services of the Murmansk Aviation Establishment. And this year three nine and ten-storey buildings have appeared next door. A third of the development, which was erected by the co-operative method, once again belongs to the Murmansk aviators. Our correspondent comments on the ways in which the housing problem is being solved here.

It is difficult, very difficult, to erect apartment buildings beyond the Arctic Circle, where every square metre costs approximately 400 rubles. But the aviation establishment, regardless of serious difficulties, is finding ways to tackle the housing problem. In addition to the five new buildings put into use in recent years, there are also other which were built earlier.

An eye is also being kept on the old housing stock. Restorations were recently carried out here; heat has been supplied to each building. Several coal-fired boilers have been replaced by a single, central oil-fired boiler. The Murmansk Aviation Establishment's immediate plans call for the construction of another 72-unit apartment building. The establishment would have preferred to carry out its construction not on a co-operative basis, but by using its own financial resources. According to the experts, Murmansk aviators could erect such a