

Half of these earnings were used to acquire industrial engineering goods from eastern neighbours - equipment, duplicating machinery and small mechanization facilities - and half were spent on the purchase of consumer goods. Children's clothing, footwear, modern radio equipment - all this was obtained by our pulp makers and their numerous sub-contractors.

Of course, the volume of scarce products purchased is a drop in the ocean of unsatisfied demands. Literally everything had to be distributed by coupons, in a manner totally above-board and under the strict supervision of the trade union committees. But this was only the first step.

All the same, this flicker of independence was noted and evaluated. People finally had the feeling that things would go well for them that beneficent changes in life depended on their own efforts. A chink had appeared in the decades old build-up of ice, alienating the worker from the fruits of his own labour. Many people realized that if things went smoothly, a genuine opportunity would be presented to the Bratsk wood chemists to resolve a mass of chronic problems, especially in the social domain, within a short span of time. For example, those to do with food products and in part, housing. The imported goods and equipment could be exchanged within the country for say, building components and materials. Not a few options are opened up by independence, if one displays initiative and doesn't give up.

Therefore, in formulating plans for the current 1989 year the pulp makers, as never before, took careful note of all their resources. It was decided to operate at the limit of their capacity,