

A group headed by N.T. Trubilin, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR⁴, worked intensely for a week in the Chukotsk Autonomous District.

"Medical science has every opportunity to considerably improve the health of the northerners in the next few years," Nikolai Timofeevich [Trubilin] told us. "The Council of Ministers of the RSFSR⁴ has approved the main directions of integrated medical and social research in the regions of the North. For these purposes, around 50 million rubles were allocated for the Twelfth Five Year Plan alone. Already in the next three to five years we should receive scientific recommendations regarding the prevention of infectious and other diseases, and the implementation of a set of measures for improving maternity and child protection."

Attention must be paid also to serious shortcomings in supply of drugs and medicines. At present, consumption of medicines supplied to the indigenous population constitutes only 2 rubles and 78 kopecks, which is considerably lower than the average consumption in the RSFSR⁴.

The material resources of public health care also demand improvement. Many hospitals are housed in dilapidated and ill-equipped buildings, many are overcrowded. At present, Councils of Ministers of Autonomous Republics, Territorial Executive Committees, and Regional Executive Committees are planning to build during 1988-95 new hospitals for 3896 beds, several out-patient clinics (for 13265 visits per shift), as well as 25 health centres and 59 paramedic-obstetric units. Existing public health care institutions are to be re-equipped. And while today only 70 per cent of medical personnel