

The forest resources of the FRG are equivalent to those of the Vologda Oblast. Yet even the Federal Republic earns more from timber exports than our entire forest superpower.

A strange situation has developed: the cheaper a product is, the greater its share in Soviet deliveries to world markets.

For cheap pulpwood, for which the purchasers are paying at most 20 roubles per cubic metre, the Soviet share in world trade amounts to 40 per cent. In the case of plywood and pulp-and-paper products, which are many times more expensive, it is only 3 to 5 per cent.

The head of the sector of the RSFSR State Inspection Service which is concerned with the timber, pulp-and-paper and woodworking industry, V. Yugov, talks to our correspondent about the serious shortcomings in the production and shipment of forest products for export.

Enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry annually export to world markets about 19 million cubic metres of timber in the round (saw logs, pulpwood, mining timber and other assortments), 8 million cubic metres of lumber, about 100 million square metres of wood fibreboard and 400 thousand cubic metres of wood particle board, as well as 500 thousand cubic metres of plywood.