

the year alone. This will make it possible to fully supply gas to 24 localities in the Mordvinian Autonomous Republic and in Smolensk, Vologda and Tula Provinces. Next year the pace will accelerate; work will proceed simultaneously in my regions. But we would like to be aware on those areas where gas is most needed.

In the course of implementing the program, 4,500 kilometres of pipes will be laid in the nonchernozem zone.

Is this a large or a small amount? For the sake of comparison I'll say that this is several times more than the amount laid in the preceding five-year plan throughout the RSFSR. I must confess that the current supply of gas to rural settlements in the RSFSR is most unsatisfactory in comparison with other Union Republics. A large amount of work therefore remains to be done. And the work will be completed on schedule. But it cannot be managed without a whole series of important organizational and technical measures. What is needed above all is a detailed program for supplying gas to remote rural settlements in the RSFSR, a program that is moreover drawn up in terms of an overall gas supply program in Russia. Success will depend on the clear allocation of responsibilities among interested organizations. Designers, mechanical engineers and metallurgists must all work together. What we have now is our country producing more pipes world-wide, yet, as before, experiencing a pipe shortage... Incidentally, thick-walled pipes designed for high pressure are not needed for rural pipelines. So it is unlikely that it will be possible to do without plastic pipes. But we are still having bad luck with these pipes. Although the "Plastik" Scientific and Production Association is coming up with many