

to in connection with the change over full cost accountability? One way out would be to develop an industrial base for logging and processing the low-grade, small-dimension timber (forest thinners), which is abundant in the Republic. It is time to review the whole structure of wood consumption and production, as well as the technology and criteria of intermediate forest use. All these are chronic problems which have long been in need of solving.

"Unquestionably, we can make use of much that is valuable and instructive from the experience of Scandinavian foresters, but we need machinery and equipment, as well as environmentally clean production lines which are qualitatively different from those available to our foresters. What we are therefore talking about is restructuring (perestroika) and the development of a domestic machine-building arm for forestry and the timber industry. Although we have been talking for decades about the chronic backwardness of this sector, things are moving extremely slowly. One gets the impression that forest machine-building is immune to criticism. No one is assuming responsibility for its reconstruction or for the low efficiency of what is now being produced."

Q. "What do you think of the possibility of leasing out State forest lands (Goslesfond) to the loggers for periods of 5 and 10 years?"

A. "In the Belorussian forests only two agencies are engaged in the extraction of timber: the Ministry of the Timber Industry and our own Ministry. The resources of mature timber are extremely limited. And if we are talking about leasing for periods of five to ten years, then given the present areas of allowable cut the mature timber resources will suffice for precisely this period. And beyond that, what? Should an agreement be concluded for the leasing of newly matured forests?"