

Yes, things are starting to change in rural areas: within the next few years, 10 percent of the annual capacity for construction and assembly work of the union's ministries and departments are to be assimilated by rural communities. For the remote parts of Tyumen' that is one billion roubles a year, in addition to 15 thousand builders - much could be done!

But it turns out that agroprom (agroindustry) is not ready for such a "gift". Next year the villages will only be given 290 million. Some say there was not enough imagination for more. The actual facts are both more complicated and simpler. The complications are obviously artificial. Rural district leaders are being required to provide not just lists of needed facilities, but complete technical documentation. And agroprom is hoping to scrape up documentation for a third of a billion.

But mental inertia also plays a role. For it was decided that villages would build homes and simpler production facilities, such as cow-sheds, from standard plans, or even from blueprints hastily put together by draughtsmen. However, agroprom and the rural managers do not know or insist on their rights. Meanwhile, the larger building organizations shake their heads: the documentation is incomplete, that is not our specialization, etc. As a result of this specialization, Tyumen', whose gas is sent abroad, to the Caucasus and to Ukraine, does not have gas lines for its own villages.

The heavy industry of the North will not start paying attention to rural areas as easily or as quickly as one would like. Slow-moving departmental "whales" are not the only reason for this. Frankly,