

conditions on the rivers Yana, Indigirka and Kolyma, in central Yakutiya, and in the northern Irkutsk Oblast. One should also mention their work in the Laptev and Eastern Siberian seas. Naturally, there are many acute social problems facing the collective of the Lena United Steamship Line [LORP], which numbers nearly 30,000 people.

Recently LORP, its enterprises, and the basin committee of the river workers' trade union have embarked upon a series of measures to improve the social well-being of fleet and shore workers. We discussed this subject with V. Mineevyi, head of the steamship line.

Q. "Vyacheslav Aleksandrovich, what for you is the most important aspect of this work?

A. "Everything, I would say. We need to provide normal recreation for the children of river workers, give each family an apartment or home, create subsidiary [farming] plots. . . I could give you a long list. Actually, in the social sphere there are no minor issues.

"Nevertheless, following lengthy deliberation and discussions we have defined two main approaches. The first I would call the traditional approach - this one virtually all steamship lines are engaged in. For example, we have sharply accelerated construction of housing on a self-financing basis. Facilities of this type have gone up in the port cities of Osetrovo and Zyryanka, in the Alekseevsk and Zhatai maintenance and operation bases, in Yakutsk, and in other locations. In so doing, our enterprises are themselves creating genuine construction industry bases. After all, where are the people of Zyryanka, who live on the 'edge of the