

more than half of the planned coupe. Moreover, only 67.8 million cubic metres were procured in improvement and other fellings. About 15 million cubic metres are being harvested in forests worked by collective and state farms and other agencies.

Thus, the existing raw material resource base, when correctly exploited, does meet the requirements of the economy for wood products.

### Whom are we deceiving?

The exhaustion factor is particularly noticeable in regions of intensive development of forest resources and is directly connected with the deterioration in their quality. The cause lies in the over-estimation of planned coupes, overcutting in coniferous forests, where the best stands have been cleared, incomplete utilization of the timber of broad-leaved species, and heavy losses of wood in all stages of its harvesting and processing.

The exploitable stocks of the most productive and high-quality forests in the European part of the country, in the Urals, and near railways in Siberia and in the Far East, have been exhausted and can no longer satisfy the country's increasing requirements for wood. Moreover, the undeveloped resource base is situated in the remote northeastern regions. To integrate these resources into the economic cycle will require heavy capital investments.

Such a situation is the result of an imperfect strategy for the development of the timber industry, directed at establishing temporary logging enterprises with a high concentration of fellings and using only high-quality stands. From 1966 to 1986, 666.8 million cubic metres of timber were cut in coniferous forests, exceeding the planned coupes (mainly in the European-Urals zone). In the process, the forests in Karelia and the Kirov, Kostroma, Vologda, Perm' and Sverdlovsk Oblasts were exhausted, and over-cutting continues there. During this period, extraction capacities of more than 230 million cubic metres in volume were closed down at enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry.