

It covers a number technical retooling projects and the construction of new purification facilities using new technology and new types of equipment.

The Ministry, its directors and I were shaken by the severe yet justified criticism we received over the environmental damage caused by the Priozersk Pulp Mill on Lake Ladoga and over the unsatisfactory state of affairs at the Baykal'sk Pulp and Paper Combine. I can tell you now that the Priozersk mill has been closed down, is being retooled for furniture production and will operate as such. We are currently working on a plan whereby the Baykal'sk combine will respecialize in some form of environmentally pure production. We will meet the 1993 deadline set for new production.

The Mary Pulp and Paper Combine's purification facilities, which are now under construction, are designed to clean effluent for the entire city of Volzhsk and from a number of other local enterprises as well. The Mary plant is acting as a contractor. Construction will be completed during the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan.

(Asked what measures he will take to reduce timber losses during the loose float, Busygin replied as follows:)

First of all we need to stop the loose float altogether. In 1965 these operations were conducted on 1,146 rivers, and a total of 100 million cubic metres of timber were floated downstream. Now there are only 197 loose float rivers handling 25 million cubic metres. The RSFSR Council of Ministers has targeted 1995 as the last year for loose float operations but we believe that such activities will cease by 1992, or 1993 at the very latest.