

In the output of forest products, especially of paper and paper board, the USSR lags far behind the USA, Canada and other countries. From every thousand cubic metres of harvested timber we are producing 4 to 6 times less pulp and 2 to 7 times less plywood and other commodities than Sweden, Finland, the USA or Canada.

A contributing factor in the slow pace of development of the timber industry has been the inadequacy of funds for capital investment. During the last two Five-Year Plans not a single start has been made on the building of a pulp-and-paper combine, besides which there has been a slowing in the commissioning of new logging capacities. Depreciation of fixed assets reached 46 per cent in 1986.

The development of the country's timber industry is also being held back by the highly unsatisfactory state of the social infrastructure, which is greatly inferior to that in other sectors of the economy. Only 30 per cent of the living space in the camps is supplied with water mains and only 23 per cent with sewers.

The overall approach to solving the problem of meeting the burgeoning demands of the economy for paper and other forest-products must take the form of a more rapid intensification of production - this to be achieved through a radical alteration of its structure and outstripping rates of development of the secondary conversion of timber - and the fuller utilization of the enormous potential of the sector.

The main line of approach must be the accelerated development of chemical and chemical-mechanical processing of wood, first and