

acquire new machines and the spare parts for them, hard currency is needed, which puts us in a tight spot. To earn it, we are exporting forest products - paper, timber in the round and waste paper - at an overall discount. We are selling for 300 to 350 dollars a tonne and buying for 450 to 500.

The mighty factories for the manufacture of papermaking equipment which were built at Izhevsk, Petrozavodsk and Dnepropetrovsk under the roof of the Ministry of Transport - and Heavy Machine Building have converted to producing goods for other sectors of the economy.

In the 13th Five Year Plan it is intended that the Ministry of the Timber Industry will increase the output of newsprint by 630,000 tonnes through a new plant (at Balakhna) and modernization of the 11 existing papermaking machines (3 at the Balakhna Pulp and Paper Combine and 4 each at the Kondopoga and Solikamsk combines). A proposal has been placed before the government to arrange for the construction of three new pulp and paper combines during the next Five-Year Plan - the Enisejsk, Vycheгда and Kirensk. Are there any hopes of this happening? Everything depends on the availability of currency, financial and material resources. But where are they to be found?

Do you sometimes wonder why investments in the pulp and paper industry are made solely from the State budget, while the CC CPSU, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (VTsSPS) and the other voluntary organizations in receipt of billions in revenue from printing activities, are not participants in this process? After all, they themselves are heavy consumers of paper.

Currency: Although paper for printing is an extremely popular and profitable commodity, this applies least of all to those who produce it. On the domestic