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REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR
SUBJECT Economic - Consumers' goods
HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers
WHERE PUBLISHED USSR
DATE PUBLISHED 30 Oct - 19 Nov 1949
LANGUAGE Russian; Latvian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

DATE DIST. 28 Mar 1950

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SCORE SHORTAGES IN CONSUMERS' GOODS, FOOD

OUTPUT OF CONSUMERS' GOODS LAGS -- Pravda Vostoka, No 225, 15 Nov 49

Tashpromptorg (Tashkent Industrial Trading Corporation) is one of the largest trading organizations in Tashkent. Most of the shoes, dresses, cotton, silk, and woolen fabrics, knitted fabrics, dishes, perfumes, haberdashery, and other products are sold through this organization.

Despite the fact that Tashpromptorg has at its disposal over 120 stores and pavilions, the organization's 1949 plan for merchandise turnover is not being fulfilled. During the third quarter, the quantity of goods sold to the public was 5 million rubles less than specified in the plan. This shortage is the result of inefficient operation among the organization's directors and workers in its stores.

Until now, Tashpromptorg workers have in every way avoided goods such as furniture, haberdashery, tobacco products, and building materials on a large scale merely because the percentage of profit earned from these articles is insignificant.

One serious defect in the work of Tashpromptorg is the slow movement of goods from the collection points and storehouses to the trading outlets. Many goods which are in great demand lie for months at Tashpromptorg collection points. Moreover, large amounts of urgently needed goods are lost in the confusion which exists in warehouses. Not long ago, many cases of matches were found in a warehouse used for storing furniture. The reason for such occurrences is the failure to carry out orders issued systematically by Tashpromptorg officials.

Often, customers are not able to buy coats, suits, or shoes of the right size in stores. In other cases, goods are sold on a "black market."

The amount of surplus at collection points and warehouses increases every day. So far, the amount accumulated during 1949 is worth over 50 million rubles.

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Thus, the defects of Tashpromptorg which have caused such a serious lag are due to a neglectful attitude toward the needs of the consumer, to violations of trading laws, and to a lack of efficient operations. The Ministry of Trade Uzbek SSR and the Main Trade Administration must help the organization so that it can fulfill its plan.

COMBINE'S PRODUCTION FALLS -- Bakinskiy Rabochiy, No 227, 19 Nov 49

The Azerbaydzhan Knitted Fabric Combine produces underwear, stockings, and socks which are sent to stores in Baku and other towns and villages in Azerbaydzhan. Much of the knitted fabric made is of good quality, of good design and is well made. However, poor-quality goods are also being produced.

In the first place, dye work is often poorly done. Fabrics look shabby and worn; colors tend to be unvarying and monotonous; underwear produced is always either blue or violet, and stockings are gray or light brown. The dye used is unstable; it fades while the item is lying in the store and runs when the item is washed.

Secondly, some goods are cut wrong and do not fit. For this reason, many items are rejected even before they reach the store. During the past four months, the combine has been fined over 25,000 rubles for rejected material and low-quality goods.

Thirdly, the combine does not organize its production so that goods are produced according to seasonal demands. In the spring, for example, Baku stores had a great deal of warm underwear; but now, when it is needed, warm underwear cannot be bought. Furthermore, the directors of the combine are not planning to begin production of underwear until December, even though the fourth-quarter plan contains other specifications.

Fourthly, most of the knitted fabrics come in small sizes, making it very difficult to purchase some sizes of women's underwear and stockings for school children.

Since the beginning of 1949, the combine failed to meet its quota by 150,000 pairs of children's stockings, 150,000 pairs of men's underwear, and tens of thousands of pieces of children's underwear. Besides this, 167 workers do not fulfill their norms.

Director Manafov and Chief Engineer Gasanov explain the lag as being due primarily to reasons beyond their control. However, it is felt that this is a poor excuse and that the combine is sufficiently well-equipped so that it can fulfill and even exceed the production plan with varied and high-quality goods. This belief is confirmed by the excellent work performed by leading brigades.

The real reasons for the existence of the lag are: (1) all the workers are not acquainted with the work of the leading brigades, (2) the political education work is poorly organized, particularly among the young people, and (3) cleanliness and order are not found in the combine, and without them, high-quality goods cannot be produced.

It is time for the combine to begin to carry out its obligation: to work flawlessly, with each worker knowing completely the quota which he must fulfill, and to produce goods of excellent quality.

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PUBLIC LACKS NECESSARY COMMODITIES -- Sovetskaya Estoniya, No 257, 30 Oct 49

Many complaints are being made by workers in leading organizations in Ryapina Volost (Vyrumaskiy Uyezd) concerning the lack of consumers' goods. Such necessities as stockings, electrical apparatus, and school supplies, which the population sorely needs, are seldom to be found in stores in Levaka, Pylva, Vypsu, and other cities. Neither the Uyezd Executive Committee nor the Executive Committees of the Volost Soviets have, however, taken any steps to remedy the existing situation. -- A. Petrovskiy, in a letter to the editorial staff

POOR TRANSPORTATION HOLDS UP PLANT PRODUCTION -- Pravda Vostoka, No 215, 30 Oct 49

The cotton-refining plants in Khorezma lack raw cotton. Supply centers have accumulated a great deal of raw cotton from the 1949 harvest, but trucks for transporting the cotton are distributed very poorly. The automobile park in Urgench has received new mechanics and workers, but it continually fails to complete the plan for transporting raw cotton. Instead of 227 tons, it delivers only 135 tons of raw cotton to the plant per day.

The main reason for the lag is improper distribution of trucks. Not long ago, ten trucks were sent to Khas'yan distribution center where they remained idle all day, whereas Shavat and Kosh-Kupyre centers, which needed trucks, did not receive any. At the latter stations, the cotton had to be packed in bales. This resulted in a loss of time and labor. In another instance, the directions given for the loading of trucks with grain were not correctly understood. As a result, the grain was never loaded.

Investigation reveals that automobile transportation work is not under anyone's control. Up to the present, no agreements have been made between cotton-refining plants and the automobile park.

The transportation system in Khorezma can and should operate more effectively. The directors of the system should work out the best means of utilizing trucks and of increasing the efficiency of the automobile park. -- V. Vertyankin

ARMENIAN FOOD INDUSTRY UNDER FIRE -- Kommunist, No 261, 4 Nov 49

From one quarter to the next, enterprises of the Ministry of Food Industry Armenian SSR do not complete their production plans, disrupt the plan for assortment of goods, and cause large losses of raw material and semifinished material. The quota set for net production during the first quarter of 1949 was met by 74.9 percent, and the third quarter plan was not completed.

The lag in the food industry is caused by poor direction of enterprises by the ministry and by incomplete utilization of their resources. It cannot be said that the ministry spends insufficient time with problems concerning the work of its enterprises. The collegium often holds meetings at which it discusses shortcomings, considers important questions of current work, makes decisions, and issues injunctions. The basic questions, however, are: what are the problems connected with the activities of enterprises and how is the collegium of ministers to judge these problems?

During meetings of the collegium, many verbal excuses are usually presented and discussed academically, but not positive action is taken to remedy the situation. An individual speech of a director of an enterprise is never discussed, nor are inferences ever drawn from actual experience, even though this could be of great aid.

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At a meeting held on 21 May, instead of hearing speeches of directors of leading and lagging enterprises and judging the situation from a few examples, the collegium discussed all the enterprises in general. The generalization was made that the main reason for underfulfillment was unsatisfactory organization of work. The decision reached was also general and had nothing new and definite to offer as a remedy for the situation. Thus, instead of making a thorough analysis of the reasons behind the lag and coming to some useful conclusions based upon its findings, the collegium did nothing to help the enterprises fulfill their plans.

With the exception of two or three enterprises, calculations and accounts of food industry enterprises are poorly conducted so that losses go unchecked. The ministry has only begun to take an interest in these questions. Building and mechanization are also not progressing as fast as was planned. Furthermore, little work is being done to raise the earning capacity of the enterprises, or even to direct their activity in this direction.

The task for the ministry is, thus, not only to direct the enterprises, but also to provide the workers with new ideas, to present and to solve daily problems of industry, to be responsible for the future development of production and the appropriate and develop any new ideas which may appear.

NOTE DEFECTS IN LATVIAN LIGHT INDUSTRY -- Cina, No 272, 19 Nov 49

During the first 10 months of 1949, the quality of consumers' goods has improved and their assortment has been increased considerably, especially in the case of textiles, knitted goods, clothing, and products of the shoe industry. However, not all Latvian enterprises have made an effort to produce better goods and a larger assortment of products.

The "Sarkanais Metalists" Plant produces only two or three types of iron-ware, which are all of one size, poorly finished, and too heavy. Aluminum kettles are of poor quality. The plant does not make any effort to enlarge the assortment of iron and aluminum ware, or to improve their quality. Neither the "Darba Spars" nor the "Metaltehnika" plants have begun production of coffee-pots or teapots, although several resolutions were made to produce these articles. It is impossible to obtain these items in the stores.

The "Uzvara" Metal Plant, which has often been criticized by the Council of Experts for its poor workmanship, especially in the galvanizing process, has not yet submitted any new and improved samples which would meet technical requirements. The "Jaunais Komunars" Plant continues to produce low-quality keys and window and door fixtures.

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