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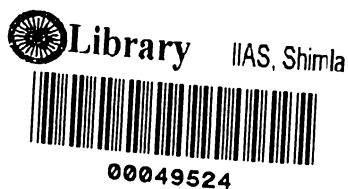
Social Programme of the Ninth Five-Year Plan



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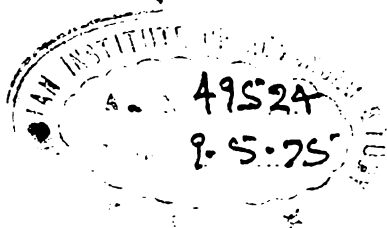
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Planned social development is possible only with a definite level of socialisation of productive forces and a corresponding level of social consciousness where constructive activity based on Marxist theory is directed by the Communist Party expressing the interests of the people as its vanguard, and the people are well aware of the objective of their construction work. This possibility first appeared in the Soviet Union and has been carried into effect in practical construction of a socialist society.

On the eve of the 12th Congress of the CPSU in January 1923 Lenin described these specific features of socialist construction in these words: "...we now have an opportunity which rarely occurs in history of ascertaining the period necessary for bringing about radical social changes; we now see clearly *what* can be done in five years, and what requires much more time."¹

The objectives of social development are outlined by the Communist Party in its programmes. The main social goals ensuing from the central task of building communist society are aimed to set up a uniform social structure of Soviet society, to eliminate essential differences between physical and mental work, between town and countryside, to meet in full the material and spiritual requirements of the working people and the entire population, to secure an all-round development of the personality of Soviet man.

¹ V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 33, p. 483.

These goals were formulated in principle by the CPSU in the early days of Soviet government. However, they are finalised in accordance with the attained level of economic development. Specific social problems are solved on the basis of five-year economic development plans of the USSR. All national economic plans, beginning from Lenin's first nation-wide electrification programme (GOELRO), drafted and adopted in 1920, are concrete programmes of building and developing socialist society. The main social task of the First Five-Year Plan was to build the foundation of the socialist economy, to abolish the exploiting classes and to overcome backwardness inherited from tsarism.

During the pre-war decades the Soviet Union completed the socialist reconstruction of all branches of the national economy, co-operation of peasants and reconstruction of agriculture along socialist lines. The Soviet Union became a mighty industrial power with advanced collective-farm agriculture.

The victory of socialism abolished exploitation of man by man and brought about a cardinal improvement in the material conditions of the working people. The development of the socialist economy created the prerequisites for a rapid growth of social production on the basis of advanced technology, for increasing social wealth and systematic improvement of the working people's living standards.

The attack of nazi Germany on the Soviet Union in June 1941 interrupted the peaceful constructive work of the Soviet people. The war and the temporary occupation by the nazis of a part of Soviet territory caused enormous damage to the Soviet Union. More than 20 million Soviet people died on the battlefield and in nazi captivity. The nazis destroyed and looted 1,710 towns and townlets, burned down more than 70,000 villages, demolished completely or partially about 32,000 industrial enterprises, destroyed 65,000 kilometres of railway track, and did tremendous damage to agriculture. The Soviet people's material losses were estimated at 2,600 thousand million rubles. The war delayed the Soviet Union's advance along the path of socialism by more than ten years.

During the first few post-war years the Soviet national economy was rehabilitated and the basis was laid for its further development.

Fulfilling one five-year plan after another, the Soviet Union has advanced to the foreground of socio-economic and scientific and technological progress, achieved impressive successes in the fields of education, health care, social security, culture and public services. As the Soviet economy developed more and more social tasks were set by the Communist Party. By using the rapid development of the economy there are real possibilities today of securing a rise in the material and cultural standards of the population.

The Directives of the 24th Congress of the CPSU for the Five-Year Economic Development Plan of the USSR for 1971-1975 say: "*The main task of the five-year plan is to ensure a considerable rise of the people's material and cultural level on the basis of a high rate of development of socialist production, enhancement of its efficiency, scientific and technical progress and acceleration of the growth of labour productivity.*"¹

The efforts to attain the central target of the Ninth Five-Year Plan are based on the material and technical basis set up in earlier years. Today an advanced socialist society has been built in the Soviet Union. The national economy produces 2,000 million rubles' worth of goods daily. In the years of Soviet power the country's national income went up 46 times over.

The continued growth of production and enhancement of its efficiency under the Congress Directives are called upon to secure the implementation of the comprehensive social programme of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, set out in Alexei Kosygin's report to the 24th CPSU Congress. This programme includes:

- implementation of a system of measures to improve the living conditions of all sections of the population;

- more rational use of manpower resources, and a further improvement in working conditions;

- a faster rate of growth of the people's incomes, together with an improvement in the mechanism of their distribution,

¹ 24th Congress of the CPSU, Moscow, 1971, p. 145.

systems of remuneration and economic incentives for working people;

a considerable increase in appropriations for the upbringing of the rising generation, assistance to families with many children and improvement of working and everyday conditions for women;

a further growth in the cultural and technical levels of the population and the full introduction of universal secondary education;

a substantial evening up of the living standards of the rural and urban population.

All measures outlined in the social programme were discussed in detail and approved by the Third Session of the Eighth Supreme Soviet of the USSR in November 1971 which adopted the Law of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics "On the Five-Year Economic Development Plan of the USSR for 1971-1975".

1. KEY TARGET

The Ninth Five-Year Plan is a new step toward solving the problem of securing a steady rise in the material welfare of the population. The CPSU Programme has set the task of attaining in the Soviet Union higher living standards than in any capitalist country.

In setting the guidelines for the development of society, the Communist Party and the Soviet Government proceed from the entire system of economic and social laws of socialism, on the one hand, and from analysis of the current situation, specific conditions of social development, and the international situation, on the other. The central target of the Ninth Five-Year Plan has been called forth by a complex of factors. The very goal of socialist production, the increased economic potential, as well as the requirements of economic development generated by the revolution in science and technology are the decisive factors among them.

Concern for the well-being of the people keynotes all economic policy of the CPSU, although in the past the resources applied to these goals were limited due to objective causes. The capitalist encirclement of the first and only socialist country made it necessary to rely exclusively on the internal reserves in economic development, to industrialise the country within a historically brief period and to channel a large share of funds into defence work. A lot of funds and labour had to be spent on the restoration of the national economy ravaged by the nazi invaders

during the Second World War, but there was an added opportunity to improve the welfare of the people as the country's economy grew stronger.

The socialist planning system reflects the requirements of socio-economic progress. The national income produced by the working people is the only source of revenue for securing the growth of social production and implementing social measures. Measures to ensure high growth rates of the national income and its correct distribution in order to strengthen the country's might and raise the working people's living standards is a fundamental problem of planning in the USSR. In the seventh five-year period the national income increased 32 per cent, and in the eighth five-year period, 41 per cent.

There have been changes in the proportions in the distribution of the national income which is divided into the accumulation fund and the consumption fund. Before the end of the seventh five-year period the accumulation fund grew at a much faster rate than the consumption fund, whereas in the eighth five-year period these rates were brought closer together. The consumption fund increment was 56.8 thousand million rubles, as against 31.4 thousand million rubles in the seventh five-year period, i.e., it almost doubled while the accumulation fund also continued to grow.

Of the total national income which was equal to 1,166 thousand million rubles in the eighth five-year period 518 thousand million rubles went to meet the consumption needs of the working people and their families as wages and salaries of factory and office workers and as collective farmers' income, 199 thousand million rubles went into the maintenance and development of educational institutions, health care and the provision of cultural, welfare and other public services. Spending on the maintenance of war veterans and invalids, temporarily incapacitated persons and also on scholarships and grants to students has consumed about 80 thousand million rubles, 41 thousand million rubles has gone into science. The cost of increasing housing space and the network of schools, cultural and other establishments has come to 62 thousand million rubles.

All in all, about three-quarters of the national income produced in the eighth five-year period has gone into consumption.

In the ninth five-year period, the accumulation fund is to grow 36 per cent, and the consumption fund, 40 per cent. This will make it possible to increase the per capita consumption fund more than twofold as compared with 1965. The national income in the USSR is distributed with a view to providing favourable conditions for the life of the people.

Today, the need for a further rise in the living standards of Soviet working people is dictated in particular by the character of modern economic development, the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution.

It is necessary to develop the abilities of every personality and to stimulate his creative activity. Growing importance is attached to the general and special training and the cultural level of the individual, and this depends, in turn, on the standard of living of the population, the extent to which its material and cultural requirements are met. Hence the increase in the influence of the people's welfare on the development of production. Therefore, the Report of the Central Committee of the CPSU to the 24th Congress says that "the Party also proceeds from the fact that a higher standard of living is becoming an ever more imperative requirement of our economic development, one of the important economic preconditions for the rapid growth of production.

"This approach follows not only from our policy of further accentuating the role of material and moral labour incentives. The question is posed much more broadly: to create conditions favourable for the all-round development of the abilities and creative activity of Soviet people, of all working people, that is, to develop the main productive force of society."¹

The measures outlined in the social programme for gradual elimination of the still existing difference in the standards of living of people engaged in physical and mental work, in town and country, various social groups imply a still

¹ *24th Congress of the CPSU*, p. 51.

greater turn of the Soviet economy to improving the living standard of the Soviet people, their living and working conditions. What is more, this direction of economic development will be characteristic not only of the ninth five-year period. The Resolution of the 24th CPSU Congress reads: "The course set by the Communist Party for raising the people's living standard will determine not only the main task of the ninth five-year period, but also the general long-term orientation of the country's economic development."¹ The Soviet Union's increased economic potential makes it possible to direct the economy to the solution of various problems involved in increasing public welfare.

2. LIFE AND WORK TO GAIN IN INTEREST

The standard of living of the population and the level of its material well-being are different things. The second is only a part of the first, broad social notion. In addition to the level of material well-being dependent on people's real income, the standard of living also includes the conditions and sphere of application of labour, the budget of working and free time, expansion of the output of consumer goods and the services.

Since the early days of Soviet power the Communist Party has displayed consistent concern for improving the conditions of people's activity in production. The CPSU Programme says that "all-round measures to make working conditions healthier and lighter constitute an important task in improving the well-being of the people".²

In accordance with the Soviet labour legislation, a system of labour protection and an occupational hygiene and sanitary service have been set up in the USSR. Every enterprise has a production development fund, one of whose purposes is improvement of working conditions. During the eighth five-year period much was done in this field: obsolescent equipment was renewed, comprehensive mechanisation and automation were introduced to relieve workers

¹ *24th Congress of the CPSU*, p. 221.

² *The Road to Communism*, Moscow, 1961, p. 542.

of hard physical labour. Lenin pointed out that it is precisely the use of achievements in science and technology and their high level of development that "will make working conditions more hygienic, will free millions of workers from smoke, dust and dirt, and accelerate the transformation of dirty, repulsive workshops into clean, bright laboratories worthy of human beings".¹

Research institutes and laboratories—of psycho-physiology, hygiene, technology, economics and sociology—are tackling the problems of improving working conditions. They work out and introduce appropriate measures into production. For example, on the initiative of the Ivanovo Institute of Labour Protection under the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, lighting fixtures were improved and illumination intensity increased at a number of textile mills. As a result, the labour productivity of women workers increased 1.5-3 per cent, and visual fatigue reduced by 10-20 per cent. The introduction of technical improvements to reduce noise in departments of the Krasnaya Zvezda Factory of Kirovograd reduced workers' fatigue: the phase of heightened work capacity in the total amount of working time increased from 47 to 62 per cent, which permitted some 10 per cent increase in labour efficiency.²

Both the workers and management are equally interested in improving working conditions, technical re-equipment and expansion of everyday services. Therefore, collective drafting of social development plans of production collectives is practised on an increasing scale in the USSR. This is preceded by mass-scale polling of workers to find out the needs of everyone. The measures outlined rest on realistic economic possibilities of enterprises.

The social programme of the Ninth Five-Year Plan provides for an improvement in working conditions, mechanisation and automation of production and, accordingly, a reduction in the share of heavy physical work. This has been recognised as one of the priority tasks of the five-year plan. Alexei Kosygin declared in his report to the 24th

¹ V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 19, p. 62.

² See N. P. Kalinina, V. G. Makushin, *The Influence of Working Conditions on Labour Productivity*, Moscow, 1970, pp. 34-5, 43 (in Russian).

CPSU Congress: "One of the primary tasks is extensive mechanisation of labour-intensive operations to make possible the maximum substitution of machines for manual labour. Complex mechanisation of the key production processes in industry, building, agriculture and transport is to be completed. It is necessary to switch on a broader scale to the design of machine systems, and to introduce extensively automated management systems."¹ At the same time the task has been set of designing modern safety engineering and labour protection facilities.

The production of automatic and semi-automatic flow lines for the machine-building industry is to increase 60 per cent. The output of digital programme controlled machine tools is to grow at least 250 per cent. In the textile industry, semi-automatic and automatic flow lines will replace roughly one-third of the current stock of spinning frames and looms. The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress read: "Consistently to reduce, by raising technical levels in production, the use of manual, arduous and unskilled labour in every sector of the national economy.... To ensure a further improvement of working conditions, to step up the equipment of enterprises with up-to-date facilities of labour safety and labour protection."²

Mechanisation and automation of production will also have an essential impact on the sphere of application of labour. First, a large body of people will be relieved of heavy, semi-skilled labour, second, many of them will be able to go over to other fields of production or to the services. Owing to the achievements of the revolution in science and technology, the number of employees engaged mostly in mental work will be growing rapidly. The category of employees performing work of predominantly intellectual character—fitters, operators, machine-tool and automatic machine adjusters, laboratory assistants, etc.—will also grow. There will be a considerable increase in the number of those employed in everyday services establishments whose network is to be drastically expanded in the ninth five-year period.

¹ *24th Congress of the CPSU*, p. 149.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 247-48.

The socialist mode of production guarantees working people full employment, constant expansion of the sphere of application of labour.

In the ninth five-year period the output of consumer goods will be expanded, maintaining a balance between the growth of the working people's purchasing capacity and a corresponding increase in the production of manufactured and agricultural goods, the development of trade and the public catering system.

Since the early years of Soviet power the CPSU and the Soviet Government have been taking vigorous steps to increase the production of consumer goods.

As far back as 1927, the Directives for the first five-year period said that "in the field of balance between production and consumption it is necessary to secure an optimum combination of both these factors".¹

In the early years of its existence, however, the Soviet state had to concentrate on the main directions of development of industry on which the very existence of the country was dependent, and the Soviet people willingly agreed to many restrictions and had to be content with the most requisite prime necessities. Today, large funds can be channelled by the Soviet economy into the production of consumer goods. Their output considerably increased in the eighth five-year period which made it possible to sell 50 per cent more goods in 1970 than in 1965. In the ninth five-year period the rates of consumer goods production grow considerably and trade and the public catering network expand on the basis of a detailed study and analysis of the market situation and consumer demand.

At the 24th Congress of the CPSU in 1971 criticism was leveled both on executives slowly widening the production of consumer goods and those managing to "coexist peacefully" with shortcomings and having got used to the low quality of goods. The Congress Directives for the current five-year economic development plan demand a radical improvement in product quality.

¹ *The CPSU in Resolutions and Decisions of Its Congresses, Conferences and Plenary Meetings of the Central Committee*, Vol. 4, Moscow, 1970, p. 34 (in Russian).

In accordance with the Directives for the Ninth Five-Year Plan it is planned that "a further improvement shall be secured in the diet of the population by increasing the production and consumption of meat, fish and dairy products, eggs, vegetables and fruit, and enlarging the range of these and other foodstuffs.... A wide choice of garments and footwear, particularly for children, shall be ensured. The sale to the population of crockery, furniture, refrigerators and other items of everyday use and household appliances, and also of fuel and building materials shall be considerably increased."¹

On the whole, the retail trade turnover is to grow 40 per cent over the five-year period. Market stocks of meat, fish, vegetable oils, eggs and vegetables will grow 40-60 per cent. Sales of clothes are to increase 35 per cent, knitted goods—56 per cent, cultural and household goods—80 per cent.

The increase in the output of consumer goods and improvement in their quality will be secured with a stable level of state retail prices. As soon as the required economic prerequisites are obtained the prices of individual goods will be slashed.

One of the basic criteria of public welfare is the availability of housing with all municipal conveniences. Housing construction has assumed a wide scope in the USSR. In the fifth five-year period six million flats were built; in the sixth, 11.3 million; in the seventh, 11.5 million; and in the eighth, 11.3 million. In the period from 1966 to 1970, 55 million people improved their housing conditions or moved into new flats. In the current five-year period, housing with a total floor space of 580 million square metres is to be built, which is almost 40 per cent more than the country's total urban housing was before the Second World War. Great attention is being paid to improving the municipal services and public amenities in towns and settlements.

Almost three-quarters of housing in towns and settlements is public property. Soviet people take it for granted that a flat is provided by the government free of charge and that the rent is only 2-3 per cent of the family earnings. This covers only a part of the cost of housing maintenance.

¹ 24th Congress of the CPSU, pp. 290-91.

Other allocations for these purposes come from social consumption funds. As the housing conditions improve the social criteria of sufficiency of housing floor space change. Working people are provided with well-appointed flats in the district of their employment. The houses are surrounded with greenery. The government demands from town planners and builders rapid construction of good quality.

The working and free time budget is also covered by the definition of the living standard of the people.

As the economic possibilities grow in the Soviet Union working time is cut and free time increased. The transition to a five-day working week carried out in the eighth five-year period contributes to an increase in production efficiency and secures for the working people more favourable conditions for advancing their cultural level, for the upbringing of children and recreation. At the same time, the length of working time has remained unchanged, but the social effectiveness of the time budget has grown. The weekly total of time spent on travel to places of employment and back, on the handover of shifts, etc., has dropped some 10-15 per cent. This amounts to 6-7 hours per month and 70-80 hours per year, which is equivalent to 8-10 holidays. The five-day working week has proved particularly convenient for women.

A great improvement in the standards of everyday services, an increase in the number and quality of services rendered to the population is one of the key social tasks of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. The task is to convert the services into a large technologically equipped branch of the national economy: to build new mechanised and automated multiple service establishments, to introduce progressive forms of service, to expand the training of skilled personnel, and to raise the earnings of workers in this sphere to the level of wages in industry. The volume of everyday services throughout the country is to grow at least twofold.

3. FOR THE HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL

One of the key criteria of public welfare is the expectation of life. Before the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia, 43 per cent of children died under 5 years of age

and the average life-span of those who survived was 55 years. Of every thousand newly-born babies 273 died before they were one year old. The expectation of life¹ was only 32 years then.

The mortality rate in the USSR has fallen to one-fourth, and among infants to one-eleventh, of what it was in Russia before the revolution. In 1970, only 25 of every thousand newly-born babies died. The expectation of life has reached 70 years (65 years for men and 74, for women). This is one of the highest indices in the world.

The role of the socialist state is clearly evident in these achievements. The Soviet Union has more doctors than any other country—28.3 per 10,000 population, and a total of 698,000 members of the medical profession. In the United States, there are less than 20 doctors per 10,000 population.

Soviet physicians develop new methods of treatment and use them in medical practice on a mass scale. Medical aid is available to all. Formidable infectious diseases, such as plague, smallpox, parasitic typhus, malaria have been wiped out in the Soviet Union. The incidence of tuberculosis, brucellosis, whooping cough has markedly reduced; poliomyelitis and diphtheria are well-nigh eradicated. Medicines are cheaper than anywhere else in the world. What is more, war invalids and some other population groups get medicines free of charge or at an 80-per cent discount. Medical care at polyclinics and hospitals is free, although it costs the state 5-6 rubles a day or 150-180 rubles a month to keep a patient in hospital.

The Soviet medical services are particularly solicitous about the health of mothers and children.

From its first day of life a child is surrounded with care and attention in socialist society, first to its physical, then also to its mental and aesthetic development. A ramified network of women's and pediatric consultation centres and polyclinics staffed with highly qualified personnel operates throughout the country. Tsarist Russia had only nine such centres where service had to be paid for. In 1941,

¹ The expectation of life is the average duration of life, beyond any age, of persons who have attained that age, as shown by mortality tables. This is an accepted principle in world demography.

the USSR already had 8,600 such centres and polyclinics. Today, there are more than 21,000 of them.

Expectant mothers are transferred to easier jobs and relieved of night shifts. Long before childbirth they are granted a paid leave. In the eighth five-year period, the maternity leave was set at 112 calendar days to be extended in the case of twins and more babies.

A nursing mother discharged from a maternity home is placed under the care of a doctor and a visiting nurse in her district of residence. The child is supplied with nourishing baby foods from a dairy kitchen; in large families, free of charge. Regular medical checks, vaccinations, preventive treatment are also free.

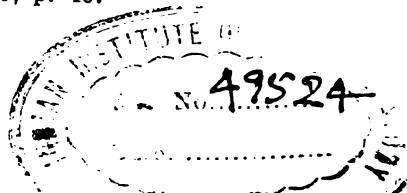
In some capitalist countries the situation is different. Medical aid and drug prices are exorbitant there and often prohibitive even to families within middle-income brackets. Large numbers of people are unable to afford qualified medical aid, even in such a rich country as the United States. According to Dr. Gerald D. Dorman, President of the American Medical Association, 40 per cent of the patients are not getting adequate care.¹ In his message to Congress in July 1969, Richard Nixon emphasised the need to deal immediately with the crisis in the medicaid programme.²

The efficiency of the Soviet health services is evidence of the constant concern of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government for the health and longevity of the Soviet people. The consolidation of the economy has made it possible to provide a firm material and technological basis for the development of health services. Hospitals with a total of over 90,000 beds are built in Soviet towns and villages every year, as well as large specialised and diversified medical institutions fitted out with up-to-date equipment and staffed with highly qualified personnel.

In rural localities, a ramified network of sectional and district hospitals, polyclinics, and outpatient clinics, surgical obstetric posts, and maternity homes has been set up. They are built with government and village-co-operative funds.

¹ *U.S. News & World Report*, July 28, 1969, p. 34.

² From White House Report on Health Care Needs, in *The New York Times*, July 11, 1969, p. 40.



In the eighth five-year period, outlays for hospital construction were 50 per cent larger than in the seventh.

The Directives for the Ninth Five-Year Plan provide for large appropriations for public health, the construction of medical institutions, improvement of medical equipment, the training of doctors and ancillary medical personnel. It is planned to increase spending on the upkeep of hospital patients. The salaries of doctors were increased as of September 1, 1972, and those of the other health workers will be raised in 1974 and 1975.

The scale of planned prophylactic examination of the country's population of every age is growing. Its findings are studied systematically. The rights and duties of the sanitary-epidemiological service are being widened to secure stricter observance of hygienic standards at home and at work.

The natural environment is protected on a nation-wide scale in the USSR. Soviet legislation on the use of forest, land and bodies of water, as well as the decision "On Measures for Further Improvement of Nature Conservation and Rational Utilisation of Natural Resources" adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet in September 1972 are directed toward an effective environmental pollution control. The commissioning of new enterprises lacking reliable waste disposal facilities is prohibited.

It is planned to augment the volume of recreational facilities for working people. The scope of building sanatoria and holiday homes, with full family accommodation in particular, is to widen.

Physical culture and sports make one strong and healthy, help increase labour productivity and cut working time losses. They have an equally favourable impact on the progress of schoolchildren and students, the efficiency of mental work.

Under the Ninth Five-Year Plan, improved conditions will be secured for broad involvement of the population in physical culture and sports. Work is in progress to build new and expand existing sports facilities, provide more camping sites and tourist hotels, and every kind of tourism is encouraged.

1. WORKERS OF TOMORROW

The production and reproduction of labour power are essential to social life. This is an economic problem as well as social. It has sociological, demographic, psychological, and pedagogical aspects. Effective use of manpower is a prerequisite of economic progress. It is precisely "to use the manpower resources more rationally, to reduce labour outlays, principally by cutting down on manual and physically arduous labour," that the Central Committee report to the 24th Congress described as one of the three major directions of work to enhance production efficiency.¹

The point in question is the fullest possible involvement of the able-bodied population—in perspective, the entire able-bodied population—in social production. This is a policy of the Soviet state and the Communist Party aimed at securing full employment of the population. "Everything required for the life and human progress," the CPSU Programme reads, "is created by labour. Hence, every able-bodied person must take part in production of the means which are indispensable for his life and work and for the welfare of society."²

In capitalist countries working people have no full guarantee against dismissals. The unemployment problem is getting worse. Between 1965 and 1970, the number of jobless on record soared from 360,000 to 640,000 in Britain, from 142,000 to 262,000 in France, from 390,000 to 590,000

¹ *24th Congress of the CPSU*, p. 71.

² *The Road to Communism*, p. 565.

in Japan. In the United States, there were more than 2,600,000 unemployed at the end of 1969, 4,668,000 in June 1970, and 5,490,000 in June 1971.¹ Unemployment hit the hardest areas with the most advanced industries. For example, in 1972, in Tacoma with its steel, electrochemical and atomic industries 9.6 per cent of the total labour force is out of work. In Seattle, an aircraft industry centre, the unemployment rate is 10.6 per cent; in Kansas City, an aircraft engine manufacturing centre, 10.3 per cent, and in Detroit, the seat of large motor companies, such as General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, 25.4 per cent.

In the USSR, 99.7 per cent of the total labour force is involved in social production, which accounts for certain specific features of manpower reproduction in the years to come.

Society has limited manpower resources. It cannot use more labour than is supplied by its able-bodied members. Their numbers vary with the demographic pattern, the birth and death rates.

The natural manpower increment in different areas and towns of the USSR is not uniform: it may be large where there is no manpower shortage, and vice versa.

There is a downward trend in the natural population increase in the world now. The reason is the falling birth-rate due to family planning and birth control. The death-rate is practically at a standstill and even tends to climb, since generations of people born in years of a high birth-rate are nearing the limit of their natural life-span. The population reproduction rate is on the downgrade in many countries of the world, including the USSR. This results in slower rates of increase in the able-bodied population.

In the meantime, the manpower demand of socialist society is steadily growing due to Soviet economic development, greater material and spiritual requirements of the Soviet people. In all the years of Soviet government, the manpower inflow was much faster than the increment in the able-bodied population. For example, until 1959, the rate of increment in manpower employed in social production was 34 per cent higher than that in the able-bodied

¹ *Employment and Earnings* No. 1, 1971, p. 32.

population. In the eighth five-year period, the total increase in the number of working persons and students was almost twice that in the able-bodied population.

The only means to increase production where manpower supply is limited is to raise labour productivity. This in turn demands effective manpower deployment in different sectors of production, as well as employment of personnel having skills and special training the national economy needs most of all. Another reason why this problem is becoming increasingly acute in the USSR is the channelling of a large share of manpower into the services. The lengthened annual holiday leaves for certain categories of working people, as well as longer periods of training and periodical advanced training and re-training of personnel also tend to deplete the working time budget of the Soviet national economy.

An optimum ratio of planned output to labour productivity growth implies rational employment of manpower as regards its strength and structure. Of the two population groups supplying manpower—those attaining working age and able-bodied persons not holding any jobs—only the first has remained, in fact, and its size is limited. Therefore, the ninth five-year period provides for intensification of production and for measures to reproduce skilled manpower to meet the requirements of the revolution in science and technology, the claims made by the technological era on manpower resources.

2. PRODUCERS OF WEALTH

In its concern for young people the Soviet state constantly widens the opportunities for the development of their physical and mental abilities. The younger generation of the Soviet Union starting work in production is remarkable for its good health and physical fitness. As evidenced by medics, today's teen-agers of working age are physically stronger than their coevals of the 30s and 40s. They are 10-15 cm taller, faster and are better developed mentally, which is important in learning a trade.

In the Soviet Union a well-organised system has been set up for training highly qualified personnel, ranging from

vocational training courses directly at places of employment to specialised technical schools and institutions of higher learning. Vocational schools are a veritable crucible of manpower for industry and agriculture. Boys and girls are trained in methods of production, develop their mental abilities and occupational skills.

Vocational schools graduate fully trained and politically conscious workers prepared for the solution of problems involved in acceleration of scientific and technological progress. As students they engage in technical art activities. The nation-wide review of 1972 demonstrated thousands of technical innovations and improvements suggested by vocational school students. Many of them won awards of the Soviet Exhibition of Economic Achievements and were applied in production.

Under the Ninth Five-Year Plan, the number of vocational schools training students in various trades is to increase. For example, agricultural mechanisation schools train tractor drivers capable of operating a harvesting combine, earth-moving machines, a turning lathe and of making repairs. They can work as fitters, electric welders, mechanics. The number of vocational schools training operators of electronic computers is steadily growing.

New schools are being built, old schools are being fitted out with modern equipment, and the student body is growing. In 1950, vocational schools graduated 500,000 skilled workers; in 1965, 1.1 million; in 1970, 1.6 million; in 1972, 1.9 million. In addition to occupational training, many vocational schools give students a secondary school education. The Resolution of the 24th CPSU Congress says: "Vocational training must be further developed and the network of vocational schools offering a secondary education must be enlarged as much as possible."¹

The All-Union Lenin Young Communist League and the trade unions see to it that young people are given correct occupational guidance and learn a trade before taking a job. In the ninth five-year period at least nine million skilled workers will be trained.

A large number of young operatives learn a trade right at the bench on factory premises. They are trained by vet-

¹ 24th Congress of the CPSU, pp. 229-30.

eran masters with a long working record. In 1960, 10.9 million workers were learning new trades and advancing their qualifications, and in 1970, 18.1 million.

Combination of vocational and general training of young people helps improve the standards of manpower. In the ninth five-year period, the labour force will be joined mostly by young men and women with a full secondary education. Consequently, the lower limit of working age in the USSR will be raised from 16 years to 18. This tends to advance the level of vocational training but detracts from manpower supply, which will have to be compensated for by improving the system of training skilled manpower of all categories.

The concern for raising the cultural level and technical skills of the population is dictated not only by the need to promote all-round personality development but also by the scientific and technological revolution which is a boost to social progress. This revolution radically transforms production technology and processes, changes the content and conditions of human labour, demands better skills from the worker. While relieving him of heavy physical labour and increasing his free time, scientific and technological progress requires constant advancement of knowhow. At the same time, this progress makes it imperative for society to have an adequate force of well-educated, fully trained skilled workers capable of handling new sophisticated production processes and machinery. Their education and knowhow are one of the criteria of a country's economic potential and wealth. It has been estimated that returns on investments in advancement of personnel qualifications are almost four times those on direct economic investments.

The best-trained personnel give the best work performance. At coal mines in the Donets Basin, for example, the labour productivity of graduates of four-year mining schools is 5.2 and 15.5 per cent higher than that of workers with two years' training and those with a term of team apprenticeship respectively. They show more imagination in solving production problems and more quickly master new production processes. The relationship between education and labour productivity is also strikingly manifest in agricultural work.

Much is being done to improve the cultural level and technical skills of rural residents. One-year agricultural

schools, two-year agrozootechnical schools, training centres and courses, advanced agricultural training seminars for farmers have been instituted. Vocational schools graduate more than 450,000 agricultural workers of average and high qualifications every year.

The training of specialists of medium- and top-level qualifications, as well as research scientists is carried out quite intensively in the USSR. Higher learning is becoming more comprehensive, because a narrow specialist unfamiliar with the related fields has low efficiency in modern production. The student body has grown considerably in the past few years. The secondary special schools have an enrolment of 4.4 million, more than double the figure for 1960, while the institutions of higher learning have a student body of 4.6 million, or almost two times more than early in the last decade. All in all, 23.2 million persons have a special secondary and higher education in the USSR, of whom 16.8 million are employed in the national economy. The numbers of engineers and scientists are growing particularly rapidly, which best reflects the requirements of the revolution in science and technology. With the total roughly 40-per cent increase in personnel engaged mostly in mental work in the sixties, the number of engineers and scientists grew more than twofold. The number of scientists doubled in the seventh five-year period and doubled again in the eighth, with that of specialists in technical sciences, physics and mathematics growing 100 per cent almost every four years. The contingent of top-class specialists, Doctors and Masters of Science is growing the fastest. Before 1917 there were only 298 research institutions and 11,600 research scientists in Russia, whereas today their numbers have topped 5,000 and 1,000,000 respectively.

The Directives for the Ninth Five-Year Plan emphasise the need for intensive training of specialists and research workers. "Higher and secondary specialised education shall be promoted in accordance with the requirements of scientific and technical progress, and the quality of the training and ideological and political education of future specialists shall be improved."¹

¹ 24th Congress of the CPSU, p. 294.

Enrolment in institutions of higher learning and technical schools, particularly in specialities which are needed most, is to be increased. The Directives for the Ninth Five-Year Plan read: "During the five-year period approximately 9,000,000 specialists shall be trained at institutions of higher learning and secondary specialised schools, with special attention to the training of specialists in new fields of science and technology, for the rapidly growing branches of production and for the services industry."¹ This meets the long-range requirements of the national economy; with the current scientific and technological progress, production is increasingly taken over by trained engineers of top qualifications.

The government displays constant concern for the provision of favourable conditions for students of special secondary schools and institutions of higher learning.

In accordance with the Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress, in October 1971 the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers adopted the decision "On Measures for Further Improvement of the Material, Housing and Living Conditions of Students of Higher and Special Secondary Schools". Maintenance grants to students of higher and special secondary schools have been increased. An additional 1,500 million roubles has been earmarked for this purpose under the five-year plan. Hostels with a total floor space of 5,700,000 sq. m. are to be built to provide accommodation to one million students. Medical, sanitary, health resort and public catering facilities will be improved.

3. A JOB TO ONE'S LIKING

The documents of the 24th CPSU Congress also refer to the need for improved planning of manpower training and express concern for the occupational leanings of working people being used to the best advantage to meet the demand of the national economy for personnel of definite specialities and qualifications.

How is rational employment of manpower to be secured? A substantial effect will be given, for example, by its re-

¹ Ibid.

deployment to meet labour shortages in areas differing in population density, birth-rate and rate of manpower increment.

In the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, and the Baltic republics the annual manpower increment is less than one per cent, whereas in Central Asia, Transcaucasia, Kazakhstan and Moldavia it is in excess of 1.7 per cent. In other regions, the gap is even wider. It is also increased by the more intensive population migration from areas where manpower increment is small. The pattern of distribution of minerals and other natural wealth, as well as industries based on it is just as irregular. In many places where large labour inputs are required for the development of rich natural resources, manpower is short, and vice versa. For example, some 75 per cent of forest-land, 90 per cent of proven coal deposits, 60 per cent of hydropower resources, huge deposits of oil, gas and metal ores are concentrated beyond the Ural range. Those areas, which account for over a half of Soviet territory, are inhabited by only 11 per cent of the population. By contrast, in some southern areas employment opportunities are not equally good.

The development of the natural wealth of the Soviet eastern areas holds out great promise. Formerly they were predominantly areas of raw materials production, whereas today new industrial centres of nation-wide importance are springing up there: bauxite mines and aluminum plants, non-ferrous metal, steel and petrochemical industries, wood-processing factories. The development of these areas, however, is handicapped by manpower shortage. For example, in Moldavia, the population density is 104.8 per sq. km., in the Donets Basin 186.8, whereas in Kazakhstan, Novosibirsk Region and Tomsk Region the figures are 4.7, 13.9, and 2.5 respectively.

Over the past few years, tens of thousands of workers and specialists have come from the European part of the USSR to work at building sites in Siberia and the Far East. They are enthusiasts aware of the importance of developing new rich territories. The government encourages this migration in every possible way. In the ninth five-year period, forms of encouragement of those willing to settle in new areas have been diversified. The social programme

of the five-year plan aims in particular to secure a stable labour force in these areas.

The working and living conditions and recreational facilities for new settlers and the indigenous population in distant areas are being improved. The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress say: "Conditions shall be provided for the further influx of population to the areas of the Far East and East Siberia and for the permanent settlement of workers in these areas; priority should be given to the expansion of housing construction, public utilities, cultural and service establishments."¹ In addition to providing additional wage bonuses to labour contingents which had not them before, measures are being taken to increase housing facilities. Cultural, municipal, medical and childcare institutions are springing up, the transportation services, the distributive network, etc., are being developed.

Most of the new settlers are young people. Therefore, great importance is attached to setting up new educational and cultural institutions. Research institutes, institutions of higher learning, special secondary schools, libraries and Palaces of Culture are opened in large economic areas as envisaged by the Ninth Five-Year Plan.

The scientific and technological revolution has a notable impact on the shares of employment in different industries. Over the past two to three decades, proportion of labour employed in power engineering, the chemical, petrochemical, machine-building, metal-working and building materials industries has grown 50-100 per cent, while in the coal-mining industry, and particularly in agriculture, it has reduced considerably. The total labour force in agriculture has also diminished. The manpower thus released was employed in other sectors of production and elsewhere.

In the ninth five-year period the location of new enterprises, institutions and educational establishments is based on a rational pattern. The previous lop-sided development of heavy industry in several towns of the Urals and Siberia or the timber industry in the North with the lagging light and food industries and services set a limit to women's involvement in social production. And conversely, in towns

¹ 24th Congress of the CPSU, p. 301.

with a large textile industry where most of the workers are women employment opportunities for men are limited. Such a situation is more frequent in small and medium-size towns, in urban-type communities where the specific local conditions are ignored in laying down the distribution pattern for industry.

Under the Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress for the Ninth Five-Year Plan, new enterprises will be built predominantly in small and medium-size towns. Small specialised enterprises and subsidiaries of plants and factories situated in large cities are to be located there with a view to rational employment of the male and female contingents of the labour force. The 24th CPSU Congress also called attention to the need for a rational combination of sectoral and territorial planning, which is bound to enable more efficient employment of manpower resources within every region.

The type and character of new production in the developing areas are selected with an eye to the educational standards and occupational skills of the local population. In areas where the population has just begun to get involved in industrial trades, work is under way to build food, light and extractive industry enterprises, which are to be combined rationally with industries requiring more sophisticated skills. This makes possible faster involvement in industrial production of a maximum proportion of the able-bodied population.

The distribution pattern of industries in small towns and rural localities meets the interests of agriculture: new enterprises are to operate on an on-and-off basis rather than continually, and auxiliary industries and trades are being developed. The reason is the involvement of a large proportion of the rural population in seasonal field work. In the let-up periods, seasonal subsidiaries of urban industries may employ collective farmers, field crop and vegetable growers of state farms, who may switch back to agricultural work in a busy field season.

Since days of old agriculture has been closely connected with subsidiary trades. Building materials factories using local reserves are being developed practically in every rural district. The processing of farm produce is of no less impor-

tance. In 1970, local industries and subsidiary trades turned out 7,400 million rubles' worth of goods (in terms of production cost), farm produce processing and building materials production accounting for 64 and 28 per cent of the total output respectively. Subsidiary trades involved 1,368,000 rural workers. Employment opportunities in rural areas are growing along with a rise in the living standard and cultural level.

Great importance is attached to involving in social production women of working age now doing work around the house or looking after their families. They cannot, of course, hold full-time jobs. Many of them are undereducated and have never learned a trade. Hence the difficulties involved in their gainful employment in social production. Nevertheless, improvement of the living conditions and expansion of the services, which ease the daily chores, tend to curtail this contingent of the able-bodied population uninvolved in socially useful work. For example, since 1959 about 16 million housewives and tillers of subsidiary plots came to work in social production.

The problems of widening employment opportunities for women are tackled by local authorities. In every Union republic, regional, town and district Soviets of Working People's Deputies plan the location of industries with a view to a broad attraction of women from domestic work and gardening to the sphere of social production.

Provisions are made for a wider variety of forms of employment to be made available to women to secure harmony of family interests with economic development needs, a shortened working-day and other forms of part-time employment among them. This will also serve to offset manpower shortage in the distributive network, the transportation services, some other fields of production and elsewhere. Certain categories of pensioners join in social production at their own will, retaining their pensions in full. This makes for employment of skilled manpower with wide experience in production and in other fields.

Work is under way in the Soviet Union to develop new, more effective material and moral incentives both for veteran employees and for new settlers in new towns and areas to use their qualifications and knowhow to the best advantage.

Special committees have been set up to direct migration, re-training and advanced training of released manpower.

The more efficient deployment and employment of manpower in accordance with the social programme of the Ninth Five-Year Plan contributes to production growth, meeting the interests of Soviet working people.

1. REAL INCOMES UP

The objective economic and social law of steady improvement of the people's material well-being is inherent in the socialist system, the socialist mode of production. This is the foundation of the cultural, spiritual progress of society and the individual. The wider the material base of society the greater the opportunities for the people's spiritual enrichment and social activities. Growing incomes widen the opportunities for an all-round development of personality. Therefore, a steady rise in the material well-being of the Soviet people is the supreme goal of all economic policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and of the country's entire social production.

The level of the people's material well-being is best illustrated by their real incomes, i.e., the receipts from the wages and salaries funds, the social funds and other sources, which make up the family budget private consumption is based on. These receipts increase year after year: in 1960, the per capita share of the consumption funds was 508.5 rubles; in 1965 it increased by 100 rubles; and in 1970, the last year of the eighth five-year period, reached 815 rubles. By the end of the ninth five-year period, this figure is to rise to 1,083. This increase will correspond to the increment in the national income.

These figures illustrate the growing capacity of the national economy to meet the Soviet people's material needs. Today the Soviet Union's huge economy is more than ever before capable of supplying the demand for bene-

fits required for a comprehensive development of personality.

Acceleration of increment in the consumption funds is secured not only by economic growth but also by changes in shares of distribution of the national income to meet consumer demand.

Save for spending for science and management, the consumption funds make the real incomes of Soviet citizens, which are steadily growing. For example, the real incomes increased by 54,000 million rubles in the eighth five-year period. Under the Ninth Five-Year Plan, they are to increase by 72,000 million rubles and the per capita average income is to grow 31 per cent.

Concerned for a steady increase in the people's real incomes, the Communist Party seeks to equalise the living standards of different population groups. The principle of distribution of material benefits in the USSR stimulates labour enthusiasm and creative activities of the masses and strengthens their socialist unity.

Since population incomes come from remuneration for work and from social, government and co-operative funds the following two targets are put forward: improvement of distribution according to work and improvement of distribution of social funds.

The key factor of the rise in the living standard in town and village in the ninth five-year period is cash incomes from labour in social production. As demonstrated by the half-century history of economic development in the USSR, these incomes are the mainspring of the economy. As Lenin said, communism can be built "not directly relying on enthusiasm, but aided by the enthusiasm engendered by the great revolution, and on the basis of personal interest, personal incentive".¹ These incentives are provided above all by the distribution of consumer benefits in accordance with the quantity and quality of the labour of each.

Distribution according to labour not only stimulates the development of social production but also inculcates in people respect for labour as a vital necessity. Personal material interest compels the individual to raise labour

¹ V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 33, p. 58.

productivity by advancing his knowledge and skills. This brings into play man's dormant abilities and awakens enthusiasm for creative work. Labour begins to give him spiritual satisfaction.

Today, the level of productive forces and the character of labour in socialist society still fall short of the requirements of all members of society. The principle of distribution according to work will continue as long as an abundance of material and cultural benefits is not attained and labour has not become a matter of first priority for all members of society. "The Party acts upon Lenin's thesis that communist construction must be based upon the principle of material incentive,"¹ the CPSU Programme says.

In socialist society, an improvement in material well-being cannot be spontaneous, so an increase in earnings is dependent on economic growth. In the ninth five-year period a provision is made for their increase by 22.4 per cent, and in 1975 they will more than double the 1955 level. Payments to collective farmers are to grow 30.6 per cent. Three-quarters of the funds intended for raising the population's real incomes are to be spent on pay increases.

The material situation of hired labour largely depends on its contribution to social production; therefore, distribution according to work stimulates to a maximum the performance of every collective and every worker. In former years, production growth was attained largely by increasing manpower employed in the national economy, whereas in the ninth five-year period 80-85 per cent of increment in the national income and 87-90 per cent of the total increment in industrial production are to be achieved by increasing labour productivity. The improvement of the well-being of the entire Soviet people depends on the interest the working people of all categories have in highly productive labour. The pay rates have a decisive bearing on the interest of the worker in raising labour productivity.

The CPSU resolutely cuts short tendencies toward equal sharing in material benefits regardless of individual performance. At the same time, while steadily raising pay to workers, office employees and collective farmers, the CPSU

¹ *The Road to Communism*, p. 538.

proceeds from the principle that "the disparity between high and comparatively low incomes must be steadily reduced. Increasingly greater numbers of unskilled personnel will become skilled, and the diminishing difference in proficiency and labour productivity will be accompanied by a steady reduction of disparities in the level of pay. As the living standard of the entire population rises, low income levels will approach the higher, and the disparity between the incomes of peasants and workers, low-paid and high-paid personnel and of the populations of different parts of the country, will gradually shrink".¹

This provision in the Party Programme, which reflects the objective law of the development of socialist society, is consistently carried into life, and the earnings of factory and office workers are steadily increasing. In 1969, the pay rates and the basic wages and salaries of building workers and farm-machine operators, personnel of the distributive network, the light and food industries and other sectors of production were raised.

The list of labour contingents to enjoy pay increases during the ninth five-year period is very long. Practically 90 million factory and office workers have a large increment in income from social production. A further increase in minimum pay will be essential for a rise in public welfare. This minimum has been raised three times over the past fifteen years, but the pay rates of general and semi-skilled workers are still inadequate; therefore, in the ninth five-year period measures are envisaged to improve the well-being of these contingents. The increase in minimum pay is accompanied by a rise in pay rates and basic wages and salaries of other categories of working people, above all those employed in spheres other than production. A decision of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions raised, as of September 1, 1972, the salaries of teachers, doctors and instructors of pre-school childcare institutions, the pay rates for teachers holding no academic degree at vocational, special secondary and higher schools.

Furthermore, as Alexei Kosygin noted in his report to the Third Session of the Eighth Supreme Soviet of the

¹ *The Road to Communism*, p. 538.

USSR in November 1971, subsequently "in introduction of new pay rates and basic wages and salaries provisions will be made for a higher percentage of increment for skilled labourers, designers, engineers, technicians, technologists, agronomists, and other specialists whose work has an essential bearing on the acceleration of technological progress".¹

The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress envisage an increase in supplements to pay for work involving health hazards, such as on night shifts and in a rigorous climate. This differentiation in pay rates is motivated by the material needs of residents of the Northern areas, Siberia and the Far East being much larger than those of the southerners living, say, in the Crimea or the Caucasus. The northerners spend more on warm clothes, footwear, housing, food, etc., as well as on their cultural needs, advancement of their educational standards and occupational skills. Naturally, all this should be taken into consideration in distributing material benefits according to work.

Most of the increment in earnings in the ninth five-year period is to be obtained by raising labour productivity through stimulating the workers' interest in it. Therefore, special importance is attached to the material incentives funds of enterprises. Formerly, they had a limited role to play as a source of bonuses paid to front-rankers in the socialist emulation, of lump-sum awards and emergency allowances.

Today, payments from the material incentives funds are being made dependent more and more not only on the record of the individual worker but also on that of the whole collective, stimulating advancement of production, securing harmony of social and personal interests. In the eighth five-year period material encouragement of the collective and the individual worker has been turned into an effective tool for raising labour productivity and earned incomes, and outlays for extra pay increased several times over. For example, the total of bonuses paid to factory and

¹ A. N. Kosygin, *On the Five-Year Economic Development Plan of the USSR for 1971-1975 and on the 1972 Economic Development Plan of the USSR*, Moscow, p. 29 (in Russian).

office workers in industry increased 130 per cent. In the past ten years the share of bonuses paid throughout the country has grown from 4.5 per cent of the total payments to labour to 9.4 per cent. In industry, the share of bonus payments accounted for about 14 per cent of this total.

The Ninth Five-Year Plan provides for an improvement of the methods for building and utilising the material incentives funds. It is important that every member of the working collective should have a maximum of interest not only in his individual record but also in the performance of his department, enterprise, association, not only in the manufacture of products but also in their effective marketing.

Involvement of ever greater numbers of workers in the discussion of the results of production activities of the collective and of payments from the material incentives funds contributes to a further improvement of this system of encouragement and helps devise new stimuli. Not only guarantees of distribution according to work are important, since this principle is strictly observed by management. The very fact of rank-and-file factory and office workers having their say in this distribution is evidence of the social maturity of society in which every member influences decisions on his own remuneration for work.

Implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work requires accurate measurement of the quality and quantity of work done by each. This measurement is based on correlation of different types of work to definite grades on the rate scale and quota fulfilment. The worker receives the bulk of his pay as calculated on this basis. In the ninth five-year period improvements have been made in the system of work quota setting and pay rates according to sectors of the national economy and labour categories with a view to working conditions and qualifications. Discrepancies have been eliminated in the pay rates of workers of identical trades and differential scientific criteria of job complexity have been worked out. A differential scale of pay rates varying with the conditions of work has been introduced. All this serves to enhance the interests of every worker in his individual output and in the performance of his collective.

2. OUT OF SOCIAL FUNDS

Public, government and co-operative consumption funds have an important role to play in improving public welfare. Free medical care, free tuition and advanced training, allowances, pensions, free and special-rate accommodation at sanatoria and holiday homes and other benefits serve to raise the living standards of the population. This is a characteristic feature of the socialist system.

Through social funds socialism improves the welfare of the entire population as much as it is possible with the attained level of social productive forces and the volume of consumption. As predicted by Karl Marx, under socialism the share of the total social product which is intended for the common satisfaction of needs, such as schools, health services, etc., "from the outset ... grows considerably in comparison with present-day society and it grows in proportion as the new society develops".¹ Through social, government and co-operative funds socialist society supplies above all those needs on which the all-round development of personality depends: education, the widening of cultural requirements, etc.

The social funds guarantee Soviet people free medical care, hospital accommodation of any length and full availability of medicines. In socialist society, these benefits are within the reach of all. The principle of distribution and pay according to work applies only to those employed in some or other sphere. The social funds are the basic source of maintenance of those who cannot work and have no earnings: pensioners, sick persons, students of special secondary and higher schools.

The younger generation has great social value, so society bears as much of the cost of its education and upbringing as is necessary and helps large families to raise children.

The Ninth Five-Year Plan provides for increased outlays for assistance to families having five children and more with a view to further progress in securing equal family conditions for the upbringing of children and teen-agers and more free time for mothers.

¹ K. Marx and F. Engels, *Selected Works*, in three volumes, Vol. 3, Moscow, 1973, p. 17.

Large families enjoy various privileges and grants from the social consumption fund, for example, out of the 500 rubles spent annually for the upkeep of one child in a crèche or kindergarten only about 20 per cent is paid by the parents. Many collective farms and enterprises fully incur the cost of maintenance of children in crèches, kindergartens, and recreation camps. Collective farms spend millions of rubles a year to provide children with free meals at school, at boarding houses and other childcare centres.

In the ninth five-year period, additional grants are provided for children in families with an aggregate per capita income below 50 rubles per month. Maintenance grants for children are aimed in particular at pushing up the birth-rate. Thus, these grants are part of state demographic policy to stimulate the population increase.

Another measure to raise the living standard of large families is extension of paid child sickness leaves for working mothers, paid maternity leaves at a rate of 100 per cent of the earnings irrespective of working record.

Thus, the social funds are an important form of distributing material and cultural benefits under socialism. Receipts from these funds account for almost 20 per cent of the population's incomes, and for over 25 per cent of the real incomes of factory and office workers.

In capitalist countries, the working people secure by a stubborn struggle some benefits derived from budget revenue in addition to their earnings. These sums, however, are too negligible to cover even a small share of the tax burden. For factory and office workers eligibility to a pension is limited by various qualifying conditions. For example, by the time of retirement on pension one has to contribute a definite sum to the pension fund, to have a long working record at one enterprise, to prove that he has no other income, etc. In the United States, the old-age pension is on an average equivalent to 20 per cent of the earnings (in the USSR, approximately 60 per cent, and for low-paid categories, 100 per cent); in Britain, 23 per cent; in Italy 20 per cent; in France, 18 per cent.

In those countries the pension fund is formed of fees paid by workers and office employees and a small share of government contributions, as well as charges on employers. In the

United States these fees are equivalent to 4.125 per cent of the earnings; in Britain, 4-8 per cent; in the FRG, 7 per cent; in France, 6 per cent. What is more, in the FRG and many other countries the pension age for men and women is 65 years; in Sweden, 67; in Norway, Canada and Ireland 70.

In the USSR, men are eligible to an old-age pension at 60, and women, at 55, and on arduous jobs, 5-10 years earlier.¹

In capitalist countries, social allocations are cut to a minimum, and are distributed mainly in favour of the ruling classes.

Throughout the history of socialist construction in the USSR, social consumption funds have been continually growing. Per capita payments out of them increased from 24 rubles in 1940 to 295 rubles in 1972, i.e., 12.3 times over. By 1975, they will grow to 353 rubles. The total of payments and cost of free services made available to the population in the eighth five-year period reached 63,900 million rubles which was double the country's national income in 1940 and almost 14 times the total of social funds in that year. In the ninth five-year period, these funds are to grow 40.6 per cent and reach 90,000 million rubles, an increment of 26,000 million.

Social expenditure on education is growing fast: 13,200 million rubles in 1965, 18,700 million in 1970, and 25,000 million rubles planned for 1975. Payments out of social funds for every school pupil amount to 100 rubles a year and for one attending a full-day group, 180 rubles, the figures for special secondary and higher school students being 500 and 850 rubles respectively.

More than one-third of all benefits out of social consumption funds is received by the population through social security and social insurance. This amounted to 14,400 million rubles in 1965, to 22,800 million in 1970, and the figure planned for 1975 is 35,800 million. In the eighth five-year period old-age and disability pensions were granted additionally to over 2.5 million persons. Moreover, pensions were raised for 1.3 million persons disabled by a wound or

¹ *We and the Planet. Facts and Figures*, Moscow, 1969, pp. 158-59 (in Russian).

shell shock, crippled in military service in wartime or in peacetime or handicapped by a disease connected with frontline experiences. All in all, 42 million people were on the pension list in 1972.

Social security grants and benefits are growing: in certain cases, sums paid on a sick leave are increased. More than 12 per cent of the social funds is spent on annual leaves and other benefits.

Thus, as regards both the distribution of material benefits according to work and the distribution of social consumption funds the incomes of all categories and strata of the population are rising. The opportunities for development are widened for every individual, the labour enthusiasm and social activities of the mass of the working people are heightened, particularly among women.

3. WOMEN TO ENJOY A BETTER LIFE

Scientists who studied the mental development of children revealed wide variations even in six-year-olds. Analysis showed that they are determined by the "family conditions, the level of maternal guidance. All depends on how much time and skill a mother has. A skill is a dose of information and a form of its application".¹

Therefore, measures to improve women's conditions are concerned not only with material benefits but also with their working and living conditions, possibilities for raising children and working effectively.

Lenin repeatedly pointed out that the mass of the working people, women in particular, must be involved in vigorous social activities. This is possible only when all the prerequisites have been provided for the emancipation of women. "The proletariat cannot achieve complete liberty until it has won complete liberty for women,"² he wrote. Speaking of liberty, Lenin implied not only women's equality with men at law but also her actual equal involvement in socially useful work, production management, state administration, all social affairs.

¹ N. Amosov, "Clever Children", in *Nedelya*, January 23, 1972, p. 4 (in Russian).

² V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 30, p. 372.

To solve this problem is the key goal of the policy on the women's question pursued by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government since the early days of the October Revolution. The Soviet Constitution proclaimed full equality of women in all walks of life. The path from equality at law, however, to actual equality is not an easy one and requires, in addition to social prerequisites, definite material conditions to enable wives and mothers to combine their family duties with socially useful work.

During the fifty-odd years of socialist construction in the USSR, the women's question has been solved, and women have become full-fledged members of Soviet society. Most of the specialists in public education and public health are women. Among those employed in the national economy women account for over a half. Women take part in economic management and in public activities.

These achievements appear still more spectacular when compared with the situation of women in capitalist countries. For example, in the Soviet Union, women specialists with a higher and secondary education account for over a half of the total and in the United States, for only ten per cent. In the Soviet Union 47 per cent of the total research personnel are women, in particular, 38.8 per cent are research scientists; in the United States the figure is only 8 per cent. Many Soviet women have risen to the top in the scientific community. Among Candidates and Doctors of Science women account for 27 and 13.1 per cent respectively. Among full and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences and professors about 10 per cent are women.

A large body of women are involved in public education. Eighty per cent of schoolteachers and more than 50 per cent of directors of eight-year and secondary schools are women. Nevertheless, women have to devote much of their time to household chores, the upbringing of children, the care of the family. The problem of releasing time for education, for raising qualifications is connected with that of improving women's working and living conditions. "The aim of the Party's policy is that Soviet women should have further possibilities for bringing up their children, for taking a larger part in social life, and for recreation and education, and that they should have greater access to the blessings

of culture.”¹ The Ninth Five-Year Plan has become an important stage in solving these tasks.

In the years of the past five-year plans, the amount of time taken up by housework reduced some 20 per cent and women got an additional of about 6.8 hours a week as free time.

However, domestic duties still consume about 25 per cent of women's off time. The task is to improve radically the standards of everyday services. The Ninth Five-Year Plan contains a provision for converting the services into a large mechanised sector of the national economy with a ramified network of stationary and mobile branches to take care of all the needs of the population. Concentration of everyday services at specialised centres enables the use of automatic and other machines that can promptly handle what would have taken a lot of time to do at home.

As a result of implementing the measures planned, the opportunities for women's personality development, creative activities and parental guidance will be widened considerably.

¹ *24th Congress of the CPSU*, p. 91.

1. SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ALL

The USSR Ninth Five-Year Economic Development Plan envisages much greater allocations for the upbringing and education of the younger generation, improvement of the facilities of childcare institutions and schools. General education tends to increase the cultural needs, raise the cultural level and standards of technical knowledge of the people. Therefore, the task of completing the transition to universal secondary education outlined in the Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress is one of the major goals of the Party's social policy directed to building communist society.

The Soviet state inherited mass-scale illiteracy from tsarism. Lenin wrote in 1913 that in no other country of Europe was the mass of the people more robbed of education, enlightenment and knowledge than in Russia. The illiterate aged nine and older accounted for 76 per cent of the population. Among rural residents 80.4 per cent were illiterate, and among women, 91.4 per cent.

Since the early days of Soviet power the Communist Party and Government have followed the principle that the upbringing of the younger generation is a matter of concern not only for the parents and the family. The future of society lies in children and largely depends on their physical, mental and aesthetic development. This explains the steady increase in the material and spiritual contribution of society to the upbringing of children, all-round assistance to the family which plays the main role in a child's personality development. Various childcare institutions have been set up to aid

parents. They enjoy wide popularity. In 1940, crèches accommodated 781,000 children, and in 1970, 1,181,000. At present, 9.6 million children of pre-school age are permanently accommodated at kindergartens and crèches. The expenses involved are met by society in part or in full. Already at this age children in kindergartens learn the ABC and the fundamentals of music and aesthetics.

The school is the main centre of mental, aesthetic and physical development of children. During Soviet years thousands of new schools, universities and institutes have been opened in all the Union republics. For the level of education and specialist training the Soviet Union ranks among the most advanced countries of the world. According to the population census of 1970, the number of literate citizens amounted to 99.7 per cent, in particular 99.8 per cent in towns, 99.5 per cent in rural areas. More than 50 per cent of working people in the countryside have a secondary or higher education.

In the 1972/73 academic year, the number of pupils in primary, eight-year and secondary schools in the USSR was 49.1 million, as against 9.7 million in pre-revolutionary Russia. Before 1917, Russia had 182,000 students in higher and specialised secondary schools, whereas today there are over 9 million of them in the USSR. Equal opportunities for a higher and secondary education are available to citizens of all nationalities. Millions of people in the Soviet republics have taken advantage of them. During Soviet years, 97,788 general schools with accommodation for 31.7 million pupils have been opened with government funds. From 1946 to 1970, 59,000 schools for 8 million pupils were built by collective farms.

Education opportunities in the capitalist world, for example, in the USA, are much less in comparison. President Johnson said in his message to Congress in February 1968 that "the phrase, 'equal education opportunity', to the poor family ... and to the Negro family ... is a promise—not a reality. But for millions of capable American students and their families college is still out of reach".¹ To quote

¹ From a Message on Education by President Johnson, in *Congressional Record*, Vol. 114, No. 16-17, 1968, pp. H780, S831.

Frederick Engels, the bourgeoisie is concerned for the existence of the workers as long as it needs them and gives them education to the extent that meets its interests.

As a result, only 5.3 per cent of children of rich bourgeois families in the United States fail to finish high school, while 79 per cent go to college, whereas the figures for workers' children are 67.5 and 2 per cent respectively.

Today every condition has been provided in the USSR for completing the transition to a universal secondary education. This has been laid down in the Fundamentals of Legislation on Education adopted by the Sixth Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in July 1973. They stipulate that a universal secondary education shall be implemented throughout the country to raise the educational level of Soviet people. This is regarded by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR as the major prerequisite for social, political and economic development of Soviet society. The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress provide for the construction of general schools with accommodation for at least 6 million pupils out of state funds and for a large expansion of the network of boarding schools for village children which will make it easier for children from distant villages to finish secondary school. Work is under way in mass-scale re-training of teachers, advancing their qualifications, improving the methods of training and guidance at school.

The above-mentioned Fundamentals emphasise the need for widening both general and polytechnical education in conformity with scientific and technological progress, the level of modern production and the requirements of communist construction. School training is closely connected with practical work. The Leninist plan of reforming schooling is carried out through introduction of polytechnical training. Theoretical lessons are supplemented with practical lessons in specially equipped classrooms of physics, chemistry, etc.

Millions of boys and girls study the technical arts in circles under Young Pioneer palaces. In large cities, there are technical art clubs for children and teen-agers in addition to polytechnical museums. The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress provide for improved occupational guidance at school. The school reveals and develops the leanings and

creative abilities of pupils, acquaints them with the specifics of various trades, modern machine tools and mechanisms, the fundamentals of labour legislation, the principles of socialist organisation of production. All this helps every school graduate to choose a lifework.

The younger generation has greater physical fitness than generations of the past: mass-scale medical examinations revealed that children of today are taller, stronger and of more proportionate build. Teen-agers have at their disposal thousands of well-equipped stadiums, sports grounds, camps, where they are trained by experienced coaches and instructors. All these benefits are free of charge.

Various forms of class and out-of-class work are used at school for the education of children. The Young Pioneer and Young Communist League organisations at schools contribute tremendously to guidance work. The ramified network of out-of-school institutions—theatres for children, art studios, clubs, palaces—is evidence of society's concern for the aesthetic education of the younger generation.

Upbringing and education are an integrated process. The personality of a Soviet citizen is moulded in the family, general school, higher school. In the process of education students learn the standards and rules of behaviour in society and develop an interest in social activities. A sense of duty, honour, conscience, patriotism and loyalty to the cause of communism are the characteristic traits of Soviet people. These notions underlie the aesthetic education of the younger generation.

The 24th CPSU Congress stressed the importance of problems involved in raising the younger generation. The Congress documents speak of the need for a more profound study of the theoretical and methodological principles of the upbringing of younger children and teen-agers, for assistance to parents in this difficult matter. To meet the growing demand for childcare institutions it is planned to expand their total accommodation with state funds for over 2 million children. The attendance of full-day schools and classes is to increase by 1.7 million.

The Congress emphasised the need for improving school training and guidance. Out-of-class work with youngsters is being improved, and the network of Young Pioneer Pal-

aces, young technicians' and naturalists' stations, sports schools for children and teen-agers, and other childcare institutions is being widened.

Acknowledging the great services of the Lenin Young Communist League and the Young Pioneer Organisation, the CPSU appealed for their active assistance in the upbringing of the younger generation. The Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 24th Congress says, referring to the Young Communist League, that its central task is, as before, the upbringing of youth in the spirit of communist ideology, internationalism, devotion to the Soviet homeland, active promotion of the standards and spiritual values of socialist society.

Growing educational standards of the Soviet people have important social implications for all classes and strata of society. The working class, including workers of state farms, accounts for over a half of the total labour force in the USSR. As the main productive force of society it holds the leading social positions in its structure. Thanks to its economic position in production, political experience, the working class is distinguished by such progressive traits as revolutionary spirit, strict discipline, efficient organisation, collectivism, which are an example to all other strata of society. The advancement of the educational standards of the working class is also closely connected with the enhancement of its guiding role in socialist society. In his Report to the 24th CPSU Congress, Leonid Brezhnev emphasised: "The leading role of the working class as the builder of communism is consolidated with the growth of its general cultural and educational level and of its political activity."¹

Completion of the transition to universal secondary education is a major prerequisite for the cultural and political advancement of the working youth, expansion of the beneficial influence of frontranking workers in all spheres of life in Soviet society. The rise in the general educational standards of the workers stimulates their labour enthusiasm and inventive activity, rationalisation and innovation, accelerating scientific and technological progress in industry. All this serves to draw the working class and the intelligen-

¹ 24th Congress of the CPSU, p. 88.

tsia closer together. After finishing secondary school many workers enter higher educational institutions to become engineers, leading specialists, factory managers, and government officials. The scientific and technical intelligentsia is largely recruited among the workers.

The broad and consistent development of universal education of all Soviet people reflects the democratic essence of the Communist Party's social policy directed to drawing together the classes and social groups of Soviet society—the working class, the collective-farm peasantry, the intelligentsia. Although in the USSR factory and office workers and collective farmers are free to take part in socio-political activities irrespective of their educational level, sociological studies indicate, however, that the higher their educational standards the greater their activity in the social life of their collectives, in production management and political work.

One of the central targets in building a classless communist society is the overcoming of essential difference between town and village, between mental and physical work. The increasingly sophisticated machinery used on the crop fields and stock-breeding farms requires higher cultural and technical standards of young people in rural areas. In the Soviet Union, the difference between the levels of education of rural and urban population is narrowing. By the end of the ninth five-year period secondary education will be equally available to young people in town and village.

The still existing shortcomings of education in rural areas are being rapidly eliminated. A greater number of schools are being built in the countryside than in towns, and their equipment is being improved. Well-appointed flats are provided for teachers, and their food shopping problems are taken care of by collective farms which sell them foods at prime costs. The system of advanced training and re-training of village schoolteachers is being improved.

In accordance with the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers of November 10, 1966, "On Measures for Further Improvement of General Secondary Schooling", many collective and state farms provide in their plans for the construction and rational location of new school buildings and purchase outfit for school workshops. More and more collective farms send young

men and girls to higher educational institutions. The enrolment of young people from rural areas in higher schools has been growing over the past few years.

The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress provide for an accelerated rise in the educational standards of the rural population.

2. CULTURAL HORIZONS WIDEN

The Ninth Five-Year Plan provides for a rapid rise in the cultural and general educational standards of the population. The measures outlined in the Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress express the Party's concern for the education and intellectual development of working people to correspond to the requirements of the revolution in science and technology, the epoch of building communist society.

All experience in socialist construction shows that socialism and cultural advance are inseparable. The building of communism is based on all technological achievements of mankind, on the most advanced science and culture. The Soviet people are making their large contribution to their development. Such is the meaning of Lenin's behests which the CPSU follows in its activities. In his Report to the 24th CPSU Congress the CPSU General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev said: "Communism is inconceivable without a high level of culture, education, sense of civic duty and inner maturity of people just as it is inconceivable without the appropriate material and technical basis."¹

In a country where before the revolution three out of every four persons could not read and write and where ordinary people had no access to education a cultural revolution has been implemented under a programme charted by Lenin. Universal literacy, availability of all cultural achievements and knowledge to the people are a norm of life in socialist society. Expenditures on cultural advancement, education, and science are growing in absolute and relative terms year after year. For example, in 1940, spending for these purposes ran to 4.1 thousand million rubles, or about 24 per cent of the state budget, whereas in 1960, the figure was 24.9 thousand million or 34.1 per cent, and in 1970, 55.9 thousand

¹ 24th Congress of the CPSU, p. 100.

million or 36.2 per cent. In addition, social and cultural requirements were met out of the funds of collective farms and other co-operative, trade union and public organisations. The network of theatres, cinema houses, clubs, and libraries has been widened. TV and radio sets, other recreational goods and household appliances have become part and parcel of home life. There are 128,600 public libraries in the country, and, adding scientific, socio-political, technical and special libraries, the figure comes up to about 360,000. Their repositories contain a total of several thousand million volumes. Almost every family has books in its home, and from one-third to one half of all families have from 25 to several thousand volumes. Soviet, Russian and world classics, socio-political and technical literature are the most popular in the USSR. Over five years, from 1966 to 1971, books and brochures were issued in a total of over 6.5 thousand million copies, including over 1,000 million on socio-political subjects.

Clubs and houses of culture have become centres of mass-scale amateur art activities. They number 133,000 at present. More than 200,000 amateur art circles affiliate 14 million enthusiasts. Folk art is becoming more varied in form and truly creative in content. Many stage productions of people's theatres are on a par with those of the finest professional companies. Clubs are conducting wide-scale activities in advancing culture and enlightenment, acting as centres of cultural life in rural localities.

Theatres and museums are open to all. Over 114 million spectators annually attend performances at 553 professional theatres. In addition, there are hundreds of amateur theatres. Every year, tens of millions of people visit over 1,000 museums. Many people come to see the Soviet Exhibition of Economic Achievements in Moscow.

Thousands of newspapers and magazines are published in the Soviet Union. The circulation of newspapers is about 140 million copies, and of magazines, over 150 million. Telecasts cover a territory inhabited by 150 million people. There are a large number of film projectors in villages and rural communities. In 1940, there were a total of 28,000 film projectors, and approximately 900 million people watched films during the year, whereas in 1971 the figures grew to

157.1 thousand and 4.7 thousand million respectively, which makes the per capita average of 19 visits to the cinema a year. Is this much or little? By comparison, in the FRG, France, and Japan a person goes to the cinema 3, 4 and 2 times a year respectively.

In Soviet society, all cultural values serve the interests of the people, the cause of communist construction. This is precisely what determines the socio-political goals of cultural development in the USSR. All the achievements of modern culture are intended not for a few select "connoisseurs" and "experts", not for the élite of society, as it is sanctified by the morals of the capitalist world, but for the working masses, for the people as a whole.

When advancing the breath-taking tasks of socialist construction, Lenin spoke in January 1918 of the truly popular essence of socialist culture in these words: "In the old days, human genius, the brain of man, created only to give some the benefits of technology and culture, and to deprive others of the bare necessities, education and development. From now on all the marvels of science and the gains of culture belong to the nation as a whole, and never again will man's brain and human genius be used for oppression and exploitation."¹

This fundamental principle is being consistently applied in the Soviet Union. The tremendous achievements in public education, scientific and technological progress and cultural advance are all directed to attaining the central target of improving the material well-being, securing an all-round spiritual advancement of working people. "The rise in the living standard and cultural level of the Soviet people will be effected all along the line by a variety of means and forms at the disposal of the developed socialist society,"² as Alexei Kosygin said in his report to the 24th CPSU Congress. This programme is implemented with social consumption funds.

A Soviet citizen is normally a cultured and educated person. A further rise in the general educational and cultural levels of working people is a characteristic feature of the epoch of building communism.

¹ V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 26, pp. 481-82.

² 24th Congress of the CPSU, p. 196.

The CPSU pays close attention to the tasks facing literature and the arts in the cause of advancing the cultural level of the population, the formation of aesthetic views and political ideals of Soviet man. Art and literary workers of the multinational Soviet state create highly artistic productions devoted to their contemporaries who provide an example to be emulated, particularly by young people. In his report on the 50th anniversary of the USSR, the CPSU General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev said: "In the half-century of the USSR, a Soviet socialist culture has emerged and flourished in this country, a culture uniform in spirit and basic content, which comprises the more valuable features and traditions of the culture and life of each Soviet nation. At the same time, any one of the Soviet national cultures does not merely feed on its own sources, but also draws on the spiritual riches of the other fraternal nations and, for its part, adds to the latter and has a beneficial effect on them."¹

¹ L. I. Brezhnev, *The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*, Moscow, 1972, pp. 30-31.

1. VILLAGES GET URBAN AMENITIES

In the years of Soviet power much has been done to improve the welfare of the rural population. On the eve of 1917 the villages were extremely poor and wretched. Even against the background of universal Russian poorness the misery of the countryside was outrageous; the average income of the peasants was equivalent to one-third of that of industrial workers. "The Russian peasant has been reduced by labour service, taxes, and capitalist exploitation to such a miserable, starvation standard of life as seems incredible in Europe. In Europe such social types are called *paupers*,"¹ Lenin wrote.

The tenor of life in the villages has radically changed as the result of implementing the Leninist co-operative plan. The peasants' misery has become a thing of the past. During the years of Soviet government their real income has grown 12-fold. And this despite the tremendous damage caused to Soviet agriculture by the nazi invaders, who burned down 70,000 villages, looted 98,000 collective farms, 1,876 state farms, 2,890 machine-and-tractor stations, and destroyed tens of millions of head of cattle.

The CPSU and the Soviet Government have been steadily advancing the productive forces of agriculture and re-equipping it technologically. This secured the rapid growth of the well-being of rural residents. Nevertheless, the living standard in the villages is still lower than in town.

¹ V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 15, p. 127.

The fact is that transformation of the countryside is possible only on the basis of highly advanced industry. Pointing to the natural specifics of agriculture, Karl Marx said that it is only due to the reciprocal influence of industry that agriculture becomes industrialised. Owing to the technological re-equipment of agriculture by urban industry it passes the manufactory stage to become highly productive and ensure high living standards for farmers. This change sets in, according to Marx, only at a definite stage of industrial development. At this stage, accelerated development of agriculture begins and, correspondingly, under a socialist social system the beginning is laid for eliminating the lag of village behind town in every field. This is precisely where the USSR stands today.

The Communist Party consistently works to secure a rise in the productive forces of agriculture. Over the eighth five-year period, the fixed assets in agriculture almost doubled. The ratio of industry to agriculture changed for the better. The share of investments in agriculture increased: in the sixth five-year period, it was 14.2 per cent; in the seventh, 15.4 per cent; in the eighth, 16.9 per cent. This permitted a firm basis to be provided for improving life in the villages.

Under the Ninth Five-Year Plan, a total of 83.1 thousand million rubles of state investments alone is to be made in agriculture, including the construction of production facilities, housing, cultural and service establishments, as well as purchases of farm machinery. Along with collective-farm investments, this adds up to almost 129 thousand million rubles, which is 47 thousand million more than in the preceding five-year period. Moreover, investments in industries manufacturing mineral fertilisers, farm machines, electric power, microbiological products, etc., i.e., maintenance supplies to agriculture, are to increase by 11.5 thousand million rubles to reach the 29.3 thousand million mark.

The pay to farm workers is lower and at times much lower than that to working people in town; therefore, the concern of the CPSU and the Soviet Government for improving the remuneration system was addressed above all to collective farmers.

The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress for the Ninth Five-Year Plan say, in particular, that it is necessary "on the basis of higher labour productivity at the collective farms to bring considerably closer collective-farm earnings and the wages of the comparable categories of state-farm workers".¹ Deliveries of farm machinery to collective farms are growing, and the training of specialists is being improved. All this will make it possible to raise labour efficiency on collective farms to that on state farms and correspondingly align the levels of pay. Auxiliary trades and workshops on collective farms will help reduce seasonal intervals in employment of collective farmers and secure stable earnings for them.

Today the difference in pay in the social economy of town and village is being reduced. In 1950, the pay of a farm worker was 53 per cent of that in industry, whereas in 1970, the figure was 75.4 per cent. The pay to collective farmers also increased rapidly; in the sixties, it increased 175 per cent, whereas the average monthly earnings of workers and office employees grew 51.4 per cent over the period. An important role is played by guaranteed pay to collective farmers enforced as of July 1966, which is based on the pay rates of corresponding categories of state-farm workers. All in all, over the eighth five-year period the per day pay to collective farmers grew 44 per cent, while the average monthly pay to factory and office workers in the national economy increased 26.4 per cent.²

In January 1968, a minimum wage of 60 rubles per month was instituted for state-farm workers, and pay rates were increased for farm machine operators. The salaries of village teachers and cultural enlightenment workers were raised.

In the ninth five-year period, the earnings of factory and office workers will grow 22 per cent on the average, and the pay to collective farmers, 30.6 per cent.

The receipts of the rural population from social consumption funds are growing faster than in town. All the benefits paid to industrial and construction workers over and above their wages have grown some 30 times in comparable prices

¹ *24th Congress of the CPSU*, p. 248.

² *National Economy of the USSR in 1970*, pp. 383, 519 (in Russian).

over the years of Soviet power, while the revenue of the collective-farm peasantry from social funds has grown more than 50 times over the period.

The "Law on Pensions and Benefits to Collective Farmers" was adopted in July 1964, and a uniform social security system was set up for collective farmers. Formerly, every collective farm had its own social security funds, which were sometimes too small on lagging farms to allow payment of pensions and benefits. Now, pensions to collective farmers are paid out of a centralised national pension fund formed of a definite share of the total income of collective farms and receipts from the state budget. As a result, practically all old and disabled collective farmers are on the pension list today. As of July 1, 1971, the minimum old-age pension has been raised and the pension rates set for factory and office workers have been extended to collective farmers. The government annually sets aside over 1.5 thousand million rubles to increase pension payments.

Subsidiary plots largely help to meet the food requirements of both the rural and urban population in certain types of produce, for example, potatoes. These subsidiary plots need no state investments to yield additional produce. Their salient feature is their predominantly natural character: their produce is consumed by the producer and his family.

The biggest subsidiary plots are held by collective farmers, smaller plots by other sections of the rural population, and very small plots by town residents. Subsidiary plots are not large, and are cultivated mostly by manual labour of low productivity. They can never compete against highly efficient social production as a source of income of the working people.

In the ninth five-year period, the requisite conditions are being provided for effective cultivation of subsidiary plots. Collective and state farms help rural residents to till them and to increase the head of livestock and poultry in their possession. Conscientious workers are assisted in the cultivation of subsidiary plots and vegetable gardens, in procuring livestock feed, in marketing farm produce, etc. This does not imply that the CPSU regards subsidiary plots as a form of agriculture to continue indefinitely. Its programme defines their future fate as follows: "At a certain

point, the collective production at kolkhozes will achieve a level at which it will fully satisfy members' requirements. On this basis, supplementary individual farming will gradually become economically unnecessary. When collective production at the kolkhozes is able to replace in full production on the supplementary individual plots of the kolkhoz members, when the collective farmers see for themselves that their supplementary individual farming is unprofitable, they will give it up of their own accord." ¹

Collective and state farms ensure ever higher earned income from social production and meet in full the demand for various farm produce. Therefore, the area occupied by subsidiary plots is gradually reduced and their owners change over to other pursuits: peasants give up cultivation of grain crops, reduce their potato gardens and plant fruit and flower orchards for their own enjoyment rather than for economic reasons. The psychology of a rural resident is changing. One must have enough of free time to meet his spiritual requirements, but work on subsidiary plots leaves but little of it. The process of "liberation" from subsidiary agriculture is going even faster than is dictated by economic necessity and by the need to bring nearer the living standards in town and village. Collective farms, state farms, local Party and municipal bodies, as well as agricultural agencies are doing much to keep this process within proper bounds.

2. MACHINES AID MEN

Consumer demand in rural areas is influenced by the level of material and technological facilities available in the countryside and by social requirements. By virtue of the former lag, the material and spiritual requirements of rural residents are growing faster than those of town dwellers. Rural residents spend more and more on goods which until recently were considered luxury articles: furniture, electric household appliances, cars and various mechanisms. Purchases of consumer goods are steadily increasing, and the share of spending on foodstuffs is reducing though its total amount is growing.

¹ *The Road to Communism*, p. 530.

The pattern of consumer demand of rural residents and their families is increasingly linked with social production, the social forms of distribution and exchange. A rural resident no longer requests his self-taught neighbour to make clothes or shoes for him but has them made to order at a dress-making or shoe-making establishment or buys ready-made clothes at a shop. Time-consuming home baking has become a thing of the past almost throughout the country, and today bread is delivered from bakeries even to the most distant areas. The public catering network—dining halls, cafes, snack bars, lunch counters—is being expanded in rural areas. On some collective farms farmers are supplied with hot meals during a busy field season. The services are also being expanded in the countryside.

In the ninth five-year period the difference in the levels of consumption in town and village is to be further reduced. The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress provide for a more rapid growth of retail trade in the countryside with a total increase of 40 per cent in sales and speedy development of the cultural and everyday services.

The difference between the working conditions in town and village is attributable to the specifics of agricultural and industrial production. Industry, which is stationary in character, is concentrated in premises safeguarding production against exposure to climatic factors, and making it possible to confine related processes to a narrow area. Agriculture largely involves work in the open air, when it is snowing or raining, under the scorching sun and in other unfavourable conditions. Natural conditions have a bearing on the organisation of agricultural work, and are responsible for its seasonal character.

The difference between industrial and agricultural work is also due to the varied degree of development of the material and technological facilities of industry and agriculture. This accounts for the large amount of manual work on the land, the lower qualifications of the workers and the worse sanitary and hygienic conditions.

The difference between the levels of industrial and agricultural work is being gradually levelled out. Let us take the dependence of agriculture on the whims of nature. Chemicals, machines and electricity are used in agriculture on

a broad scale. It becomes possible to relieve farmers of the need to work in the open air by a radical revision of production processes. Take for example flax growing. Formerly, 80 per cent of work in pulling, thrashing, spreading and raking of flax were done by hand and drawn out until winter, and flax had sometimes to be recovered from under the snow. At present, flax cultivation processes have been simplified. Manual weeding by means of a chopper has been replaced by herbicide spraying from planes. Almost all pulling and thrashing are done by flax harvesting combines. Immediately after thrashing and sorting flax fibre is delivered to a flax-processing factory to be exposed to biological treatment which gives the same effect as maturation of flax by exposure to dew. In this way, flax cultivation is mechanised by 80 per cent.

Destruction of weeds required an immense amount of manual work. The use of herbicides obviates the need for weeding flax and cotton plants, mechanical provoking and destruction of weeds when sowing grain crops. Farmers are beginning to use herbicides in vegetable growing, which saves a lot of manual labour. The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress provide for meeting in full the demand for herbicides in agriculture. They say in particular: "Wider use shall be made of advanced methods of laying in and storing fodder, hay-making with crimpers and forced ventilation, and the preparation of haylage and vitamin-rich grass meal."¹ Hay procurement will be less dependent on weather, and the share of manual work in raking and stacking hay will be reduced.

The wide use of chemicals and machines in agriculture enables a change in its processes to obviate labour-consuming types of manual work and improves working conditions.

The rise in the living standards and cultural level of rural residents is also facilitated by their more regular employment in social production round the year. Seasonal variations in agricultural work are reduced by one of the two methods: the development on collective and state farms of subsidiary trades and the application of machines, intensification of production processes. On collective farms which maintain

¹ 24th Congress of the CPSU, p. 274.

good balance between agricultural production and subsidiary trades, members are employed regularly round the year. The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress formulate this task as follows: "The further *development of ancillary industries*, chiefly for processing and storing farm produce and producing building materials and consumer goods from local raw materials, shall be ensured at the collective and state farms in order to secure fuller and more rational utilisation of the labour resources in rural localities throughout the year, strengthen the economy of the farms and boost labour productivity. Production links shall be promoted between agricultural and industrial enterprises. The building and improvement of inter-collective farm and state-collective farm enterprises and organisations, and the creation of agrarian-industrial complexes and amalgamations shall be facilitated."¹

Machines obviate the need for employing more hands during busy seasons, as was illustrated by the example of flax cultivation.

However, the mechanisation of auxiliary processes is still inadequate for complete abolition of manual work and seasonal employment of additional labour.

The CPSU and the Soviet Government are taking effective steps to widen the scale of using machines, electricity and chemicals in agriculture, with special emphasis on deliveries of complete sets of equipment, machines and mechanisms. In 1970, power supply per worker in agriculture was 22 times that before the revolution. It has been growing particularly rapidly in the past few years: in 1950, it was 1.7 hp per worker; in 1960, 5.4 hp; and in 1970, 11.2 hp, or 6.5 times more than in 1950.

Nevertheless, the level of productive forces in agriculture is still lower than in industry. At present, there is almost 8,000 rubles in fixed assets per worker in industry and about 4,000 rubles, in agriculture. Its lagging behind industry is particularly striking in power supply. Although in the seventh and eighth five-year periods, almost all villages were electrified, more than half the electric power consumed in rural areas goes to meet domestic needs, mostly for lighting.

¹ 24th Congress of the CPSU, p. 279.

The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress envisage measures to speed up mechanisation, electrification and chemicalisation of agriculture. Under the Ninth Five-Year Plan, power capacities in agriculture are to grow by 161 million hp, or 50 per cent, and electric power consumption is almost to double, reaching 75 thousand million kilowatt-hours. It is planned to increase the output of farm machines by 65 per cent toward 1975, and of tractors, by 25 per cent. New machines will be more powerful and adapted to a broader range of operations. The machine-builders are to secure a fuller supply of all branches of the national economy with mechanical equipment easing heavy manual work, above all with machine systems for an all-round mechanisation of major fields of production in all sectors, particularly in agriculture.

The farmers' qualifications are changing radically. In contrast to the peasant of the pre-revolutionary period who was a Jack-of-all-trades, the farmers of today have specialised skills. There are over 120 specialities in agricultural production now. The growing division of labour gives birth to new and new specialities, such as adjusters and operators, microbiological laboratory assistants and management experts.

The difference between the technical skills of workers in agriculture and industry is being reduced. The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress proclaim that "the necessary steps shall be taken to *provide collective and state farms with permanent staffs* of farm machine operators, livestock breeders, team leaders and other experts, to raise their qualifications and improve the working and living conditions of people engaged in agriculture. The training of agronomists, livestock experts, veterinary surgeons, engineers, economists and other specialists planning to work in agriculture shall be improved."¹

Close attention is paid to the special training of women living in rural areas. In 1969, the resolution "On Wider Employment of Women in Skilled Work in Agriculture" was adopted by the USSR Council of Ministers. Women are employed, in particular, as farm machine operators. They

¹ 24th Congress of the CPSU, p. 280.

enjoy an annual extra leave and their working quotas are 10 per cent less than those for men on a given farm. They are given priority in work on machines which are easier to control and service.

Mechanisation and electrification of agriculture, its full remodelling along scientific lines essentially widen employment opportunities in rural areas and bring them closer to those in town.

3. VILLAGES CHANGE THEIR ASPECT

In the last few five-year periods, the lag in availability of modern housing has been rapidly diminishing in the countryside. For example, there was 781 million sq.m. of floor space for 100 million town-dwellers in 1959, and 430 million sq.m. for 107 million rural residents, whereas in 1970 the per capita average of floor space available to both was 11 sq. m. Thus, in eleven years housing in rural areas grew by a wider margin than in towns. The priority rates of growth in housing for rural residents will be maintained in the ninth five-year period, too.

The level of dwelling comfort is also highly important. In rural areas, housing conveniences are worse than they are in town.

This has its reasons. The construction of urban housing has long become socially centralised, industrial in character. In the countryside, however, it has since old days been one's private business to build a home for himself. With the peasant's scarce means, it was built sturdy but without any conveniences to speak of. Sewerage, running water, central heating are amenities only a large community can afford since they are quite expensive to build and to operate. For socio-economic reasons, the population of rural areas is distributed between small communities, because before the revolution peasants who had few draught animals settled closer to cultivated fields. To this day, two out of every five rural communities have less than 100 residents each. The operation of communal networks in such localities is scores of times as expensive as in large ones.

During the collectivisation period, great changes occurred in the mode of life in the countryside. Many small villages

and hamlets merged into well-appointed collective-farm communities with a uniform layout and public amenities. As a rule, they have a school, a club, shops, a medical station, a post office and other services.

Gradually the dwelling of a rural resident ceases to be a matter of his own concern. Centralised construction of housing in rural localities has long been conducted by state farms and government enterprises and institutions situated there. Dwellings built by collective farms or rural building organisations to their orders have conveniences comparable to urban standards. Collective farmers either buy them on an instalment plan or paying rent like town dwellers.

Specialisation of agricultural production and the demand of rural residents for well-appointed housing result in the merger of villages. Today, whole districts and regions, territories and republics draw up new patterns of population distribution, projects of village layouts and house interiors. The nation-wide contest for the best village planning project carried out late in the 60s revealed an unusual variety of ideas in designing a comfortable rural dwelling.

Work is under way to lay on gas in rural localities. According to the Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress, the share of housing with gas facilities in rural localities is to reach 40-50 per cent in 1975. This is as yet less than in town where housing with gas facilities will account for 65-75 per cent of total, yet the priority development of gas networks in rural localities is obvious. Gas facilities make it possible to supply village homes with hot water, install central heating, etc. An increase in electric power supply to rural housing will also be essential.

The new trends in rural housing construction are attributable to two circumstances. First, the growth of the economy, material and technological facilities of collective and state farms. For example, in 1964, the Pogranichnik Collective Farm in Brichany district, Moldavia, could allocate only 16,500 rubles for the construction of cultural and service establishments, or 2.6 per cent of its total investments, whereas in 1965, it spent on this work 47,600 rubles; in 1966, 135,000; in 1968, 205,100, or 37.1 per cent of all investments. Many other farms did likewise.

Second, the increased wealth of society as a whole. The CPSU and the Soviet Government are concerned for regular supplies of building materials to the rural population. In the period 1950-70, sales of building materials, sawn timber, roofing slates, soft roofing, cement to rural residents increased scores of times. Sales of standard houses and structural elements are growing. The Soviet society has come to a point where work can be started to fulfil the key provision of the CPSU programme stating that collective-farm villages are gradually transforming into integrated urban-type communities with comfortable housing, public utilities, cultural and medical institutions. Eventually, the cultural and living conditions in rural localities will be brought up to those in town.

As an extension of this provision, in the autumn of 1968, the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers passed the decision "On Improvement of Construction in the Villages". The Ministry of Rural Construction was set up to centralise building work and render assistance to collective farms.

Provision of municipal services in rural localities is bound up with the development of transport facilities. The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress provide for at least 110,000 kilometres of motorways to be built out of government funds. Most of them will pass across rural areas. Every republic, every local Soviet is seeking out additional means to build roads, making wider use of local resources and supporting in every way the initiative of enterprises, collective farms and state farms.

The cultural advance of the rural population is remarkable. Socialism which has put an end to the estrangement of the countryside from urban culture has brought cultural achievements within the reach of all the people. The demand for books, newspapers and magazines is growing. The rate of subscription to newspapers and magazines in the villages has reached more than 107 million copies as against 65 million in 1967. Radio and television sets are common everywhere. Of the country's 133,000 clubs and palaces of culture almost 115,000 are in rural localities. Of the total of 157,100 film projectors 133,100, or 85 per cent, are also there. There are about 100 seats in cinema houses per 1,000 rural population.

A rural resident goes to the cinema 17 times a year on the average.

The villagers not only enjoy cultural values but also produce them. About 3.6 million villagers take part in amateur art activities, giving over 700,000 concerts and performances a year. Many of them are broadcast and telecast in towns. The folk art of the village of Palekh, the mountain village of Kubachi, Northern lace makers, Central Asian carpet-weavers and many other folk masters are part and parcel of the cultural wealth of the Soviet land. These are talented, skilful masters generously contributing to Soviet culture and enjoying nation-wide and world-wide renown.

The Directives of the 24th CPSU Congress provide for the further development in the countryside of the press, television, broadcasting, literature and the arts, the material and technological facilities of cultural institutions, people's universities and other forms of mass-scale self-education. The Directives say in particular: "Special attention shall be paid to improving the cultural services to the population and, in the main, completing the building of houses of culture in district centres and of cultural establishments in all large population centres. Library services shall be perfected.

"Cultural and art establishments shall be staffed more fully with skilled personnel and they shall play a greater role in socio-political life and in the leisure-time activities of the people."¹

Constant patronage by towns contributes decisively to advancing the cultural standards of the villages. "Under capitalism the town introduced political, economic, moral, physical, etc., corruption into the countryside. In our case, towns are automatically beginning to introduce the very opposite of this into the countryside,"² Lenin noted. Cultural patronage of the town over the village—not episodic but permanent, expressed in a variety of forms and meeting the varied requirements of the villagers—helps improve the cultural services in rural areas, strengthen and expand their material facilities, aids rural cultural institutions in matters of organisation, methods of work and creative initiative.

¹ *24th Congress of the CPSU*, p. 295.

² V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 33, p. 466.

The ninth five-year period is nearing completion. The achievements in all the fields of economic, social and political development of the USSR are evidence of high ideological and political uplift, labour heroism and enthusiasm of the masses in implementing the programme charted by the CPSU.

The achievements made in the three years of the five-year period show that the Soviet economy is developing successfully along the lines set by the CPSU. The central target of the five-year plan—a further rise in the material and cultural levels of the people—is being successfully attained.

The country's productive forces are growing rapidly. The basic production assets have increased by almost 80 thousand million rubles, or 17 per cent. Over the period of two years (1971-1972), the national income augmented by 26.2 thousand million rubles, or 10 per cent. The total volume of industrial production increased by more than 54 thousand million rubles, or almost 15 per cent. The growth rates of industrial production in the Soviet Union during these years were faster than in any advanced capitalist country.

The output of all types of industrial products has grown. Electricity generation has increased by 119 thousand million kilowatt-hours; oil extraction, by 44.5 million tons; the production of gas, by more than 23 thousand million cu.m., steel, by 10 million tons, motor vehicles, by 464,000 units, recreational goods and household appliances, by more than 3 thousand million rubles.

Large enterprises with advanced equipment have been commissioned: the Volzhsky Car Factory in Togliatti, the Kirish Oil Refinery, the Kursk Bearing Plant and scores of other factories. The Krasnoyarsk Hydropower Station has been brought up to its full design capacity of 6 million kilowatts. Gas and oil pipelines have been laid over a distance of several thousand kilometres.

The people's living standards have been raised. A bigger share of the national income than ever before has been spent for this purpose: in the eighth five-year period 73 per cent of the national income was spent on consumption, and over 80 per cent, in only two years of the ninth five-year period. The minimum pay has been raised, and the basic wages and salaries of workers and employees of the railway services and underground railways within middle-income brackets have been increased, as have the pensions of collective farmers. Maintenance grants for higher school students have been increased 25 per cent and for students of special secondary schools, 50 per cent. Government spending for these purposes is about 5 thousand million rubles a year.

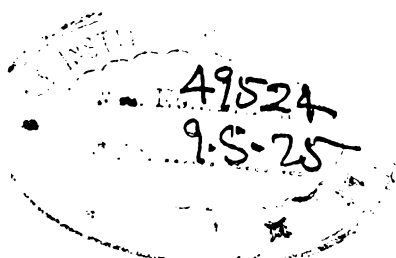
Cash income has been increased for 34 million people. In 1972, the average monthly earnings of factory and office workers in the national economy were 131 rubles, and, together with payments from social consumption funds, 174 rubles. Along with this growth the stability of state retail prices is secured. The per capita real income has grown 8.2 per cent since 1970. These figures are an embodiment of the socio-economic programme of the 24th CPSU Congress.

At every stage of Soviet economic development the socialist economic system meets the interests of the people. The working people's awareness of the fact that they work not for the exploiters but for themselves, for their society stimulates their enthusiasm in labour. The Soviet people's interest in strengthening the power of their socialist homeland, whose growth serves to improve the life of the people, is a moral stimulus to constructive work.

These successes in building a new society are an example for the working people of all countries. The achievements of the Soviet Union, the countries of the socialist community

have changed the balance of forces on the world scene in favour of socialism. Now the capitalist world is opposed by the powerful socialist system, which plays a decisive role in international affairs.

The multinational Soviet state and the half-century experience of its development practically demonstrate the vitality of socialism, the correctness of Marxism-Leninism which has opened a clear perspective of social progress before mankind.



This book describes the steps to secure a further improvement in public welfare and cultural advancement provided for in the Directives of the 24th Congress of the CPSU for the Five-Year Economic Development Plan of the USSR for 1971-1975. It deals in detail with the rise in the living standards of all the sections of the Soviet population, the trends toward an equal level of life in town and village, the continued improvement of the working and living conditions of working people, women in particular, a considerable increase in appropriations for the upbringing of the rising generation, assistance to large families, the completion of transition to a universal secondary education.



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