

.HEALTH OFFICIAL SAYS CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT HIT WESTERN RUSSIA.

MOSCOW MAY 11 TASS - SEVERAL REGIONS IN WESTERN RUSSIA WERE HIT BY THE 1986 CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ACCIDENT AS HARD AS THE UKRAINE AND BYELORUSSIA WERE, VIKTOR PANDV, FIRST DEPUTY HEALTH MINISTER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, TOLD THE NEWSPAPER SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA.

IN THE INTERVIEW, PUBLISHED TODAY, HE COMMENTS ON THE PARLIAMENT-ADOPTED PROGRAMME TO CLEAN UP THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT.

PANDV SAYS 111,000 PEOPLE LIVE IN THE +STRICT CONTROL+ ZONE IN SIX DISTRICTS OF BRYANSK REGION, WHERE THE DENSITY OF CONTAMINATION WITH CAESIUM EXCEEDS 15 CURIES PER SQUARE KILOMETER. THE POPULATION DENSITY IN UKRAINIAN AND BYELORUSSIAN AREAS THAT ARE AS BADLY CONTAMINATED IS 23,300 AND 96,200, RESPECTIVELY.

+CHERNOBYL RADIONUCLIDES HIT LARGE AREAS -- 8,130 SQUARE KILOMETERS OF RUSSIAN TERRITORY, WITH A HOPULATION OF 647,000, WERE CONTAMINATED WITH CAESIUM-137, THE CONTAMINATION LEVEL EXCEEDING FIVE CURIES,+ HE SAYS. +THE RADIATION SITUATION REMAINS SERIOUS.+

PANDV NOTES THAT +NOT ENOUGH MEASURES PROTECTING PEOPLE AGAINST RADIATION WERE TAKEN+ IN THOSE AREAS AND THAT +THE MORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION IN MANY POPULATED LOCALITIES IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT -- PEOPLE, WHO ARE DENIED EXPLICIT INFORMATION, LIVE IN FEAR FOR THEIR HEALTH AND THE HEALTH OF THEIR CHILDREN.+

HE SAYS THE AFFECTED AREAS WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH UP-TO-DATE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICINE ON A PRIORITY BASIS UNDER A PROGRAMME DRAFTED BY THE RUSSIAN HEALTH MINISTRY JOINTLY WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN BRYANSK, TULA, SMOLENSK, OREL AND KALUGA.

ONE MILLION FOREIGN CURRENCY ROUBLES WILL BE ALLOCATED TO THE MINISTRY THIS YEAR TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT.

PANDV SAYS THAT, IN ADDITION TO RADIATION FACTORS, ONE SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT +THE ENTIRE RANGE OF PROBLEMS FACED BY THE POPULATION OF THE CONTAMINATED AREAS.+

+PEOPLE ARE LIVD IN A STATE OF PERMANENT STRESS. THE NATURE OF THEIR DIET HAS CHANGED. THIRTY PER CENT OF THE CHILDREN SUFFER FROM HYPOVITAMINOSIS.+

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ROAD ACCIDENT TOLL GROWS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

MOSCOW MAY 11 TASS -3 ROAD ACCIDENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION FILTED 56,460 PEOPLE AND INJURED 346,484 LAST YEAR. THE NUMBER OF DEATHS WENT UP BY MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE IN COMPARISON WITH 1988, THE RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA NEWSPAPER REPORTED TODAY.

.5= THESE HORRIBLE STATISTICS ARE THE RESULT OF LOW DRIVING SKILLS AND DISCIPLINE. DRIVERS ARE TO BLAME FOR NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE ROAD ACCIDENTS. THE SHORTAGE OF DRIVING SCHOOLS, CARS, SIMULATOR STANDS AND INSTRUCTORS IN THE COUNTRY IS DEPLORABLE.

ANOTHER MAJOR SOURCE OF DANGER IS DRUNKEN DRIVING. THE NUMBER OF ROAD ACCIDENTS DUE TO DRUNKEN DRIVING INCREASED BY SEVEN PER CENT IN 1988 AND ANOTHER 30 PER CENT IN 1989. MEDICAL CHECKS AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE WORKING DAY HAVE BECOME MERE FORMALITIES, THE NEWSPAPER NOTED.

THE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT PRODUCED BY SOVIET ENTERPRISES LAG DECADES BEHIND FOREIGN MODELS IN THEIR ACTIVE, PASSIVE AND POST-ACCIDENT SAFETY STANDARDS.

THE SOVIET STATE TRAFFIC INSPECTION HAS HAD TO BAN THE USE OF NEARLY TWO MILLION AUTOMOBILES BECAUSE OF ACCIDENT-PRONE DEFECTS.

THE TOTAL LENGTH OF ROADS IN GENERAL USE IN THIS COUNTRY IS ABOUT ONE MILLION KILOMETERS. THEIR QUALITY IS MUCH BELOW WORLD STANDARDS. ONLY 20 PER CENT OF ALL ROADS ARE WIDER THAN 7.5 METERS AND CAN BE REGARDED AS FREEWAYS.

THE NUMBER OF ROAD ACCIDENTS OCCURRING ON COUNTRY ROADS, BYWAYS AND OTHER MINOR ROADS IS THREE TIMES THAT ON FREEWAYS. HOWEVER, NEWLY-BUILT HIGHWAYS AND MAJOR ROADS ARE OVERLOADED SEVERAL TIMES OVER.

THE NEWSPAPER SAYS THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO ESTABLISH A SPECIALISED ROAD SAFETY COMMISSION AT THE USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO STEM THE GROWING DEATH TOLL ON ROADS.

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