

The enterprises of the Ministry of Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry fulfilled their production quota for 1966, the first year of the Five-Year Plan, of the basic petroleum products, synthetic rubber, plastics, automobile tires, detergents, mechanical rubber and asbestos goods, and many other types of products.

Apart from fulfilling their quota for 1966, the refineries and petrochemical plants achieved appreciable improvement in the quality of motor and diesel fuels, synthetic rubber, automobile tires, and several other products and goods.

The pages of this journal often carried mentions of the unsatisfactory quality of automobile tires and diesel fuel produced in our factories. Now we can say that this problem is being tackled successfully. The catalytic reforming and hydrofining capacities that have been put on stream in recent years enabled us to step up the production of high-octane motor fuel and low-sulfur-content diesel fuel.

The construction of new high-capacity catalytic cracking, catalytic reforming, and hydrofining units will help in improving the quality of motor and diesel fuels in the near future.

As we know, all branches of industry and agriculture registered a faster rate of development in 1966 than in the previous two years. This fact in turn brought about a corresponding increase in the demand for the products of the refining and petrochemical industry.

Rich grain harvest resulted in increased demand for motor and diesel fuels by agriculture. Thanks to the over-fulfillment of their quota the refineries fully assured the needs of agriculture for tractor fuel, lubricants, tires, and mechanical rubber goods. Nine enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry were switched to the new system of planning and economic incentives in 1966.

As a result of this switch-over the enterprises showed higher performance, started making better use of their spare capacity and production fuels, and devoted greater attention to the product quality. All these resulted in the improved rhythm of production and an increase in the range of workers benefitting from the material incentive fund.

The drive for increasing the economic efficiency of production became the principal point in socialist competition.

Although the plan for the basic products was overfulfilled in 1966, the production quota for electrode coke, kerosine, synthetic alcohol, nitrogenous fertilizers, and several other petrochemical products was not met.

We should also mention the non-fulfillment of the last year's plan for capital construction and commissioning of fresh capacities in refining and petrochemical production. This shortfall will call for additional steps to be taken for assuring the fulfillment of the quota assigned to the enterprises controlled by the Ministry of Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry in 1967.

Responsible and complex tasks have been assigned to the workers of the refining and petrochemical industry, this highly important branch of national economy, in 1967, which is the second year of the new Five-Year Plan. This industry has not only to meet the fast increasing demands of the national economy for its products in terms of volume and number of items stipulated by the 1967 Plan, it will also have to do much for further improvement in the quality of many types of products.

Much creative work is needed for solution of very important problems, such as further increase in operating efficiency, reduction in production cost, introduction of new processes, and improvement of working conditions in the enterprises belonging to this industry.

We should not forget to mention that with respect to the volume of gross output this Ministry now occupies the second place among all branches of heavy industry, after ferrous metallurgy.

The vast number of products (as many as seven thousand items) manufactured by the enterprises of this Ministry are called upon to meet not only the demands of all branches of national economy, but also the needs of the population. Therefore, the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the production quota by this industry is of great importance for raising the living standards of the Soviet people.

1967 is a special year in the life of the Soviet people, for it marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

There is no doubt that the workers of the enterprises, scientific-research and designing institutes of the Ministry of Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry will develop socialist competition still more in commemoration of this very important event in the history of our country.

The 1967 Plan entrusts very responsible and complex tasks to this industry for increasing the volume of petroleum refining; the output of basic petroleum products, particularly motor, jet and diesel fuels; the production of synthetic ethyl alcohol, synthetic rubber, and plastics, mainly polyethylene and polypropylene, butyl alcohols and higher alcohols; the production of automobile tires; and several other products.

This Ministry's 1967 production plan sets high targets with respect to the volume of gross and commodity outputs, and outlays per ruble of commodity output.

The fulfillment of the 1967 quota will make it imperative for the enterprises to work out and implement a number of measures, particularly those for maximum utilization and further intensification of the existing production capacities, faster attainment of the designed capacities of the newly built and reconstructed refineries, plants and process units, and finally for increasing the economic efficiency of production and improving the product quality. As we know, the rapid development of the refining and, particularly, petrochemical industry in recent years has been accompanied not only by a quantitative increase, but also by a marked qualitative change of the products increased complexity in the production processes, increased unit capacity of plants (e.g., designing of six million t/yr capacity crude processing plants), and the development of secondary petroleum refining processes and new production processes for several petrochemical products.

The production processes employed by the enterprises of this Ministry involve pressures ranging from a few millimeters of mercury to 1500 atm; temperatures from  $-120$  to  $+800^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; and utilization of easily inflammable and explosive feedstock, complex semi-finished products, reagents, and catalysts.

In short, this branch of industry has become more complex in recent years, and requires a high standard of production and strict industrial and operational discipline.

Therefore, the raising of the standard of production and the improvement of industrial and operational discipline are the two important steps which are to be taken for assuring the successful implementation of the 1967 Plan.

The workers of refineries and petrochemical plants know well that the stepping-up of the output of processing units and of refineries as a whole, the improvement of product quality, and the raising of production efficiency will call for, first of all, adherence to the specifications required for particular units and plants during preparation of the feedstock. The most important of these for production of petroleum products are dehydration and desalting of the crude, clear separation of the fractions which are sent subsequently for catalytic reforming, catalytic cracking and hydrofining, or to the lube oil production unit. In the case of petrochemical processes these factors are the extent of purity of the feedstock, reagents, catalysts, and additives, and other quality indices for these products.

The maximum utilization of the production capacities depends chiefly on the length of run between shut-downs for maintenance of process units, which again is a function of the standard of maintenance and adherence to the operating specifications of these units.

The refining and petrochemical industry of the USSR is served by skilled workers, technicians, engineers, and scientists who have a good knowledge of the production processes and also the ability to control them.

As against nine enterprises of the Ministry which were switched to the new system of planning and economic incentives in 1966, there will be dozens of such enterprises in 1967. A new price structure for crude petroleum, petroleum products, chemicals and petrochemical products will be introduced from July, 1967.

All these will make it imperative for the employers of the Ministry, corporations, combines, and individual enterprises to make a serious study of the economics of production, introduce cost accounting, develop scientifically based consumption norms, and improve the moral and material interest of the employees in the results of their labor.

The newly introduced system of branch-wise control of industries, the creation of the USSR Ministry of Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, and the switching of the enterprises to the new system of planning and economic incentives have created better conditions for further development of the refining and petrochemical industry, and for improving the economic efficiency of production in this branch of national economy.

Through the creative initiative of their workers, engineers, technicians, and scientists and by developing socialist competition the enterprises, scientific-research and designing organizations of the refining and petroleum industry will make every effort and apply all their knowledge for fulfillment and overfulfillment of the 1967 Plan in the anniversary year of the Soviet Power.