"More production, better quality, lower cost, with no one lagging in the ranks." Under this slogan, we of the Syzran’ Refinery Workers’ Collective are continuing our efforts in the fourth and definitive year of the Ninth Five-Year Plan.

The past year for the refinery collective has been marked by important production events and achievements. By concentrating efforts and material resources in working toward the main goals of the collective’s labor activity, the plan for the first three years of the five-year period was fulfilled by December 2, 1973. This early fulfillment of the plans for these three years was possible because of the selfless and creative labor of the refinery workers and their active participation in measures to increase the production efficiency still further.

The primary paths taken in this work were increasing the output from existing production capacity, modernization of existing equipment, utilization of the advance experience of related operating installations in the industry-branch, improvements in control, in both primary and auxiliary production facilities, and an increase in creative activity in advancing suggestions for improvements in refinery operations.

During a short period in the past year, with minor expenditures of capital, a thermal cracking unit in a dual atmospheric distillation block has been revamped, so that the primary capacity for crude oil processing could be increased by 8%. Through revamping of the hydrotreating unit and improving the heat recovery from the material streams, it has become possible to increase its capacity by 25% of the design capacity.

In 1973, the production capacities in comparison with design capacities were increased as follows: primary crude oil processing by 19%, hydrotreating by 15%, and catalytic reforming by 13%.

The workers’ collective of the refinery took the initiative in competition for early fulfillment of the tasks assigned by the Ninth Five-Year Plan. The goal was set for January 1, 1974, at which time the growth rates in total production, labor productivity, and profit were to be brought to the 1975 level.

The patriotic initiative of the Syzran’ refinery workers has been commended by the Board of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Professional Union.

In accordance with the obligations that have been accepted, the level of the 1975 Plan has been surpassed with respect to all indices. The productivity of labor in comparison with 1970 rose by 36.3% instead of the 26.2% provided in the five-year plan. The volume of crude oil processed, as defined by the plan for 1975, has been overfulfilled. Likewise, the control value for profit for the last year of the five-year plan has been overfulfilled by a considerable amount.

The production plan for 1973, the decisive year of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, was fulfilled four days in advance. The main factors in this accomplishment were the all-out creative efforts of workers and specialists in the refinery and widely expanded socialist competition.

Improvements in basic production were accompanied by the direction of considerable effort and material resources toward corrosion control for vessels and other equipment. Major attention was given to reducing the content of salts in the crude oils being processed. A series of measures in this area brought the chloride content of the desalted crude down to 7-10 mg/liter.
A widespread expansion of all forms of socialist competition has been of mutual benefit to the competing collectives and individual workers in the refinery. The leaders in this competition have become "beacons" of production, and the others have been catching up with the leaders.

For example, the workers' collective in the primary crude oil processing department, one of the largest process departments in the refinery, has continually increased the crude oil processing capacity and thus has made it certain that feedstocks of the required quality will be available for secondary processes.

The well-coordinated work of the collective of this department, together with that of the collectives in secondary-process departments, has made it possible within a six-month period to prepare three types of petroleum products for State certification.

The highest results in socialist competition in 1973 were achieved by the hydrotreating and sulfuric acid production department. The plan for total basic products of this department was filled to the extent of 105.8%, the manufacturing cost of the products was reduced by 0.5%, and labor productivity was increased by 10%. Savings in energy and material reagents totaled some 200,000 rubles.

A major role has been played by the auxiliary groups such as the maintenance department, the instrumentation and automation department, etc.

Solution of a number of organizational problems in improving the administrative structure and organizing the work in the auxiliary groups has had a favorable effect on the coordinated operation of the entire refinery collective in 1973. Our auxiliary groups are still spending much time carrying out certain operations, owing to the use of relatively inefficient manual labor. Hence, the concentration of efforts toward mechanization and automation of labor in this area is extremely important.

For example, centralizing the maintenance department has curtailed the loss of working time very markedly, has improved the utilization factor of equipment, and has improved the quality of maintenance, so that the process-unit operating cycles between maintenance periods have been extended. For example, in the alkylation unit, the cycle between maintenance shutdowns was extended from 227 to 318 days in 1973, and that in the atmospheric-vacuum pipestill unit from 346 to 464 days.

Centralization of the maintenance of equipment and instrumentation has given improvements in reliability and thus contributed to more stable operation of the process units. A number of important measures in the areas of automation and telemechanization of various objects have been put into effect.

Well known in the refinery are the names of the most outstanding workers, the winners in the socialist competition. Among them are senior operators Vladimir Fedorovich Il'yukhin, Andrei Timofeevich Trubin, and Yuriy Pablovich Bogomolov; lathe operator Mikhail Ivanovich Filippov; operator Tamara Vasiievna Ivanova; and painter Anastasiya Ivanovna Timina.

The honorary title "Winner of Socialist Competition in 1973" was awarded to more than 400 workers and office personnel.