

CHAPTER 2

ECONOMIC DAMAGE AND STATE POLICY ON THE OVERCOMING OF THE CHERNOBYL NPP CATASTROPHE CONSEQUENCES

2.1. Economic consequences of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe

The Chernobyl catastrophe has affected all spheres of the man's vital activity - production, culture, science, economy and etc. 2,64 thousand km² of agricultural lands have been excluded from the agricultural turnover. 54 collective farms and sovkhozes have been liquidated, 9 processing industrial plants of the agroindustrial complex have been closed down. Arable lands and gross agricultural crop yield has reduced sharply, the cattle stock has decreased considerably.

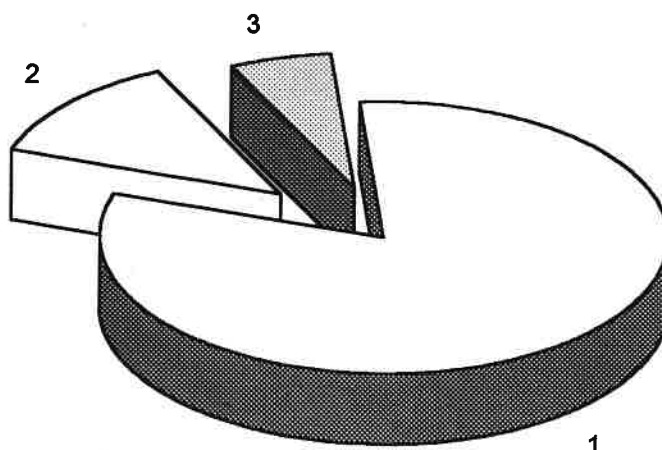
The use of forest, raw, mineral and other resources has been considerably reduced. 132 layers of different kinds of raw and mineral resources including 47 % of industrial reserves of foundry sand, 19 % of building and silicate, 91 % of glass sands of the republic, 20 % of industrial reserves of chalk, 13 % of clay reserves for brick manufacture, 40 % of heat-proof clays, 65 % of building stone reserves and 16 % of cement source appeared in the contaminated zone.

22 layers of mineral and raw resources with balance reserves of 5 mln.m³ of building sand, sandy-gravel materials and clays, 7,7 mln. tons of chalk and 13,5 mln. tons of peat were brought out of use. The territory of Pripyat oil and gas bearing field whose resources were evaluated in 52,2 mln. tons of oil has been excluded from the geological exploration plans.

Great damage has been incurred by the Chernobyl catastrophe on the forestry. More than a quarter of the forest resources of Belarus - 17,3 thousand km² of forests were subjected to the radioactive contamination. At present the annual losses of wood resources exceed 2 mln.m³, and up to 2010 they will reach 3,5 mln.m³. In Gomel and Mogilev regions where correspondingly 51,6 and 36,4 % of the total forest area are contaminated by radionuclides, wood felling is completely terminated on the territories with Cs-137 contamination density of 555 kBq/m² and higher.

340 industrial enterprises are situated in the contamination zone and the conditions of their functioning have considerably changed. The population resettlement from the most affected areas has resulted in closing down a number of industrial enterprises and establishments of the social sphere. Others incur heavy losses and continue to do so owing to the decline in production volumes, partial recoupment of means invested in buildings, structures, equipment, land - reclamation systems. Losses of fuel, raw materials and materials are considerable.

The damage incurred in the republic by the Chernobyl catastrophe, taking into account the 30-years period needed for its overcoming, is estimated to be 235 billion US\$ that is equal to 32 annual budgets of the republic of 1985. Here belong the losses connected with the deterioration of population health, damage incurred in industry and social sphere, agriculture, building complex, transport and communication, housing, with contamination of raw, mineral, land, water, forest and other resources, and also additional cost connected with the realization of measures on liquidation and minimization of the catastrophe consequences and providing safe living conditions for the population. The structure of the economic damage of the Republic of Belarus from the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe on the national economy installations and types of losses are represented in Fig. 2.1.



- 1 - Additional cost connected with the support of production functioning and realization of protection measures , US\$ 191 700 000 000
- 2 - Direct and indirect losses, US\$ 29 600 000 000
- 3 - Lost profit, US\$ 13 700 000 000

Fig. 2.1. Structure of the damage caused to the Republic of Belarus by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe in the period up till 2015

In the structure of the total damage for the years 1986-2015 the largest share (81,6 %) occupy expenditures connected with the support of production functioning and realization of protection measures that make up US\$ 191 700 000 000. Direct and indirect losses make up about US\$ 30 000 000 000 (12,6 %). Lost profit is estimated to be US\$ 13 700 000 000 (5,8 %). Direct losses include the cost of the national wealth excluded from use: basic industrial fund and circulating capital, social infrastructure installations, housing facilities and natural resources. Indirect ones include losses caused by the influence of economic and social factors (living conditions, population health state) upon violation or ceasing of production, labour productivity, increase of cost and complexity of supplying other installations of state, co-operative and individual forms of property, and also losses from population migration from the affected areas.

The components of the evaluated lost profit are: reduction of output volumes of products, works and services on the contaminated territories, the cost of products inadequate due to the radioactive contamination, additional expenditures on making up for the unreceived products, expenditures on reconstruction of the lost product quality, losses from cancellation of contracts and projects, credits freezing, payment of fines, penalties, forfeits, etc.

Additional costs - these are expenditures on overcoming the accident consequences and providing normal functioning of different national economy spheres in the radioactive contamination zones, including providing safe living conditions for the population. Here are included expenditures on compensation of the negative factors consequences, costs of additional resources drawn for the compensation of losses and lost profit, expenditures on decontamination works and organization of control of the radiation situation.

The estimation of the damage is not final because connection between cause and effect reflecting the effect of the radioactive contamination of the territory on various parts of the vital

activity are complicated enough. The science does not have yet the full and final data about medico-biological, social and ecological consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Besides, the economic crisis in the republic has put the radioactively contaminated areas into especially complicated socio-economic conditions. The common features of the crisis are especially acute there: drop of production, population outflow from these regions, the undeveloped state of the consumer's sector, the low level of social and medical services of the population.

Natural resources and production potential of the most affected territories appeared to be withdrawn from the economic activity sphere due to the restrictions on the population living conditions and realization of economic activity. Obviously, neither quick self-reconstruction of these regions, nor direct restoration of the national economy installations are possible under the conditions of the present economy reformation. In this case, we can only talk about the long-term process of rehabilitation that implies stage-by-stage introduction of the lost potential into the national economy sphere in proportion to providing safe living conditions for people and development of those branches whose activity is possible under the conditions of radioactive contamination without the damage to the public health.

In spite of the state budget deficiency that has been caused by the extremely heavy economic crisis, the government is forced to allocate about 10 % of the budget funds for overcoming of the catastrophe consequences: 1991 - 16,8 %, 1992 - 12,6 %, 1993 - 9,6 %, 1994 - 6,9 %, 1995 - 7,3 %. The republic has large expenditures on providing safe living conditions for the population including different kinds of payment of allowances and compensations that make up 30-40 % of the total sum of costs on the programme of overcoming of the catastrophe consequences. In 1992 they made up 24 % of funds allocated for the fulfillment of the programme, in 1993 - 26 %, in 1994 - 38 %, 1995 - 44 %, 1996 - 46 %. The increase in specific expenditures for the fulfillment of the Law "On social protection of the citizens affected by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe" is connected with the reduction of capital investments.

The source of financing the realization of the tasks of the State programme on overcoming the catastrophe consequences is an extraordinary tax imposed since 1992. Before 1994 it was equal to 18 % of salary funds of all enterprises situated on the territory of Belarus (except collective farms, sovkhoses, individual farms). However, this tax covered only 65-70 % of budget expenditures on the liquidation the catastrophe consequences. The rest 30-35 % of needs were financed from the republican budget.

In spite of the measures undertaken by the state, the financing allocated from the budget for overcoming the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences is insufficient. The attempt to draw the funds of enterprises, of local budgets, and foreign investors as well appeared to be ineffective. Together with the national economy crisis growth and slowing down the rates of its reformation, these potential sources become more and more unreal. Since 1994 the government has been forced to reduce the extraordinary tax rate up to 12 % and in 1996 - up to 10 %. Simultaneously many kinds of expenditures for the liquidation of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe consequences have been reduced.

The character and the amount of damage caused by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe have become powerful destabilizing factors of the socio-economic development of the republic. As a result, all the main national economy branches in the radioactive contamination zones appeared in the extremely heavy economic situation.

2.2. The main directions of the state and legislative bodies activity on overcoming of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe consequences

From the first days after the accident the Government of Belarus has organized and realized measures aimed at the estimation of the radiation situation, population examination and protection.

In April-May 1986 the management of realization of protection measures and liquidation of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe consequences was carried out by the Government commission of the USSR Council of Ministers and the USSR Ministry of Health. The decision on the population evacuation from the zone with the exposure level exceeding 25 mR/h (the level observed on the territory approximately in the 10 km radius from the Chernobyl NPP) was made. In fact the evacuation in the Belarussian part of the zone began on May 1 (at the beginning only children and pregnant women). Then the decision was made to reduce dose limit to 5 mR/h that approximately corresponded to the 30 km radius zone. In all, at the first stage on May 1-4 50 villages (11035 people) were evacuated from Bragin, Khojniki and Narovlya districts. On June 2-9 28 villages more (6017 people) were evacuated and at the end of August - 29 (7327 people). Thus, within the year 24700 people from 107 most affected settlements were evacuated from the Belarussian accident zone.

Among other decisions adopted on the USSR ministries levels and also by the Government commission that determined the realization of measures in Belarus it is necessary to note: on May 3, 1986 the USSR National Committee on radiation protection established temporary permissible levels of iodine content in drinking water and other food products which were reviewed on May 6 and May 30 1986 by the USSR Ministry of Health: it introduced the maximum permissible exposure dose for population - 500 mSv per year and for children under 14 years old, pregnant women and nursing mothers - 100 mSv per year, and in 10 days (May 22, 1986) 100 mSv per year was established for the whole population; on May 7, 1986 the USSR Ministry of Health confirmed temporary permissible levels of radioactive contamination of premises, transport means, clothes, skin, etc. that were decreased on October 26, 1986, etc.

Iodine preventive measure for resettles from the affected regions was first organized on May 2 (it was not organized for the rest categories of citizens). On May 12, 1986 the Ministry of Health and the BSSR State Agricultural Committee determined "Temporary levels of the permissible radioactive substances content in drinking water, food products and fodder." In July 1986 the National Committee on Radiation Protection worked out "Methodical principles of the account of levels of the internal and external exposure of the population inhabiting the territories contaminated by radioactive products of the Chernobyl NPP accident fall-outs". Even these facts show the indefiniteness and the complexity of making decisions in the radioactive contamination zones and the existent sluggishness and insufficient elaboration of normative acts by the former Soviet Union bodies.

At the same time, from May 5 to December 9, 1986 the Government of Belarus adopted 32 normative acts directed to the realization of protection measures in the Republic. In 1987 the NCRP adopted NRB -76/87, that gave the Ministry of Health the right to determine dose limits for population exposed to high doses in the result of the radiation accident. For 1987 it was 30 mSv, for 1988 and 1989 - 25 mSv. Thus, the maximum total dose for the period of 4 years (44 months) for the population inhabiting the contaminated territories was equal to 175 mSv. Thereby, the task was not to permit determining effects. It was admitted reasonable to single out 3 radioactive contamination zones:

1. Constant resettlement zone where the minimum exposure indices on the 15-th day after May 6, 1986 exceeded 20 mR/h (0,2 mGy/h). In addition, the annual dose exceeded 0,1 Gy, and the population was resettled from this territory;
2. Temporary resettlement zone where the return of the population after the evacuation was not excluded. On this territory the exposure dose was in the limits 5-20 mR/h;
3. Control zone with the exposure dose from 2 to 5 mR/h (0,02-0,05 mGy/h). Children and pregnant women were temporarily for 2-3 months resettled. Besides, this is the zone of the systematic dosimetric control, food products control, water, fodder control.

For the limitation of the internal exposure dose there introduced temporary permissible contamination levels for food products and water by caesium isotopes TPL - 88.

The following 3-years experience for overcoming of the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences dictated the necessity of creation of the complex programme and corresponding legislation on the republican as well as on the Union levels.

Taking into account the damage caused to Belarus by the Chernobyl NPP accident, the scale of tasks that were to be solved on overcoming of its consequences in Belarus, for the management of the works the Government commission with V. G. Evtukh at the head and A. T. Kichkajlo as his deputy was formed. The commission was charged with realization of all the complex of protection measures for the population inhabiting the radionuclides contamination territory. The decision of the commission became the basis for the beginning of the formation of the normative - legislative basis for measures on liquidation of the accident consequences because there was neither legislative base nor practice on realization of such measures.

On March 22, 1989 the Central Committee of the CPB and the BSSR Council of Ministers adopted resolution on elaboration of the State programme of overcoming the Chernobyl NPP accident consequences for the years 1990-1995 and up to 2000. Such programme was created and in July 1989 was approved, in principle, by the XI session of the BSSR Supreme Soviet but was returned for completing. At the session the republic was announced the zone of national ecological calamity. At the XII session of the Supreme Soviet in October 1989 the mentioned programme was adopted finally.

It includes:

- realization of complex of measures on maximum decreasing the radiation exposure dose;
- providing safety of people's health at the expense of medical preventive measures, improvement of their health, social insurance and resettlement from the zones where the safe living criteria are not observed;
- providing safe living conditions in regions subjected to radioactive contamination;
- rise of population life quality in these regions;
- scientific research of the problems connected with radiation influence on ecosystems, etc.

In April 1990 the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted the State union-republican programme of emergency measures for 1990-1992 on liquidation of the Chernobyl NPP accident consequences.

On July 1992 Presidium of the Council of Ministers adopted the State programme for overcoming the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe consequences in Belarus for 1993-1995 and the period till 2000. At present the new State programme for 1996-2000 has been presented to the Cabinet of Ministers. In 1991 the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus adopted Laws "On social protection of the citizens affected by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe" and "On legal treatment of the territories subjected to radioactive contamination in the result of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe". The law "On social Protection of Citizens Affected by the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant Catastrophe" determined the protection of rights and interests of the citizens

who took part in the liquidation of the catastrophe consequences, resettled and left for the new place of residence from the radioactive contamination territories, inhabiting the mentioned territories at present and also the citizens who took part in the liquidation or affected by the accidents and their consequences on the other nuclear installations of civil and military purpose, affected from tests, military training or other works.

The law of the Republic of Belarus "On legal Treatment of the Territories Affected by Radioactive Contamination as a Result of the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant Catastrophe" establishes a legal regime of the territories of the Republic of Belarus affected by radioactive contamination as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe and is directed to the reduction of radiational effect on population and ecological systems, realization of nature restoration and protection measures, rational use of the natural, economic and scientific potential of these territories.

Legislation determines the following concepts: national radiational ecological catastrophe, radioactively contaminated territory, radioactively dangerous lands, alienation lands, lands of limited economic use, etc. The State Committee on the Problems of the Chernobyl NPP Catastrophe Consequences was established in the republic in 1991 according to the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus that in 1994 was transformed into the Ministry for Emergencies and Population Protection from the Chernobyl NPP Catastrophe Consequences. The basic tasks of the Ministry for Emergencies in the field of overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe are: implementation of state policy in the field of population protection from the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe consequences, coordination and control of the activities of the ministries and other central organs in solving these tasks.

For the period passed after the accident 58 100 of residential houses and apartments have been built for resettled families in Belarus. Measures have been taken on improvement of socio-economic conditions in settlements accepting these people, as well as in those territories, where people have remained.

From 1990 onward secondary schools with 28 800 places, pre-school establishments with 2 900 places, hospitals for 1 900 places, clinics and medical establishments for 10 700 visits per shift have been constructed and commissioned. In accordance with the adopted laws and the State programme on overcoming of the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences with the intention of providing conditions for the population residing in the contaminated territories 4621 km of highways with the firm cover, 1099 km of the water-pipe networks, 310 km of the water drain, 1072 km of gas networks, improvement of farms and a number of other objects of economic activity have been constructed and commissioned.

The measures used to resettle the population away from the zones of prime and subsequent settling out is basically completed. The specified territories are represented today by an extensive region defined as a "zone of settling out". 131 200 people from 415 settlements (273 in Gomel, 140 in Mogilev, and 2 in Brest area) have been settled out.

The zone of alienation is a compact region with an area of about 1 700 km², located within the boundaries of the Pripyat radioactive contamination trace. Its borders are determined by the territory, from which in 1986 the population was evacuated. Since May 1986 the land in the alienation zone has been removed from economic turnover.

According to the decree of the Council of Ministers of the BSSR in 1988 a Polesseye State Radiational-Ecological Reservation was established on 1320 km² area of alienation zone. After a transfer of additional 840 km² lands adjoining the reservation in March 1993, the area of the Polesseye Reservation covers 2 160 km².

The implementation of the necessary complex of works demanded corresponding information and personnel providing. For this purpose were formed and kept data bases about the

radioactive contamination state in organizations implementing radiation control of food products and raw food, territories of the settlements, agricultural and forest lands, underground and surface waters and other objects.

In the republic there is created a system of radiological education including training specialists-radioecologists with higher education as well as dosimetrists and radiometrists for laboratories and radiation control posts. The corresponding training in the sphere of radiation medicine and agroradiology is carried out in medical and agricultural higher educational establishments.

Legislative acts and the experience for implementation of the State programme on overcoming of the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences adopted in Belarus put forward also the necessity of legal regulation and further improvement and development of international and national legislation of states.

At the special session of the IAEA General conference held on September 20-26, 1986 two conventions were adopted: on prompt notification about nuclear accident and aid in case of nuclear accident or radiation emergency situation. The first came into force on October 27, 1986, the second - on February 26, 1987.

On December 21, 1990 the 45 UN General Assembly adopted the resolution A (.45) 190 "International Co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant". This resolution gave hope for International community active participation in solving large problems connected with the minimization of long-term consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe and created legal prerequisites for working out and adoption of necessary international acts for interaction.

The UN General Assémbly recommended also all the organs, specialized establishments and UN system programmes to take into consideration in their activity the unprecedented character of radiological calamity and the extraordinary situation occurred in the result of long-term effect of anthropogenic radiation on today's and following generations.

On June 17, 1994 the Convention raising requirements for placing, projecting, construction and building of nuclear installations.

However, the elaborated international Chernobyl programmes are partially implemented and measures undertaken on formation of the international nuclear law do not allow to provide interests of people and states that may suffer from nuclear accidents that happened outside their boundaries.

2.3. Medical care and social protection systems of the affected population

Since the very first days of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe a vast system of activities aimed at health protection for children and adults have been undertaken in Belarus. This includes the realization of medical and rehabilitation measures, the creation of a State register of accident victims, methods of diagnostics and correction of disorders resulting from action of the radiation factor, studying ways of radionuclides penetration into organism, estimation of the population radiation doses and elaboration of measures to reduce them.

In public health institutions 102 Man Radiation Counters, and more than 2 thousand units of radiometric and spectrometric equipment are operated, by which about 200000 samples of food products are annually analysed. Constant control of raw materials and food production is carried out under the auspices of the Ministry of Agricultural Production. Here more than 11 mln. samples as to caesium-137 content and about 18 thousand samples as to strontium-90 are

analysed per year. The Ministry of Health performed the labour consuming work for the Catalogue edition on radiation doses for inhabitants of Belarus settlements. The catalogue is used for decisions on the implementation of protective measures.

For the purpose of ensuring constant control of the health of more than 2 million people (liquidators, citizens inhabiting the contaminated areas and being resettled), a special system of medical care for the population, affected by the accident has been drawn up and put into practice in the republic. This task is completed by territorial medical and prophylactic establishments, special medical visiting teams and medical staff working on the contaminated territories taking turns, by specialized establishments, as well as by regional, republican services and scientific research institutes.

For this purpose re-specialization of a number of structural divisions of medical and prophylactic establishments has been undertaken, and new specialized branches have been created. In the contaminated regions rooms for ultrasonic diagnostics and endoscreening have been opened. For these regions 266 ultrasonic apparatuses, 140 endoscreening devices for children and adults, 30 clinical and biochemical laboratories, 66 X-ray apparatuses with image amplifiers, computerized tomographs have been bought for the post-accident years. In regional centers immunological laboratories function.

For victims of Chernobyl the Republican specialized health center in Minsk, the specialized clinic in Aksakovshchina have been inaugurated, regional endocrinological services have been strengthened.

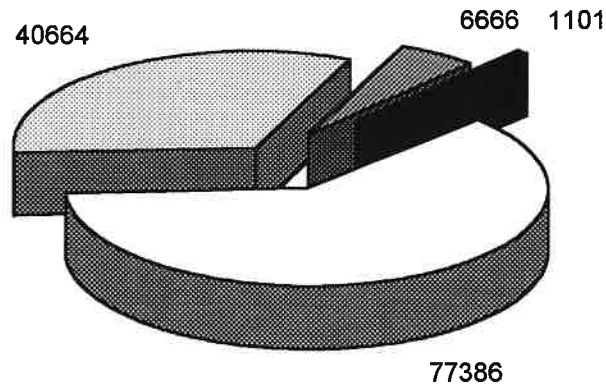
For offering specialized medical care and advice, and scientific and methodical back-up the Scientific Research Institute on Radiation Medicine under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and its branches in Gomel, Mogilev, Vitebsk have been created. On the basis of the Minsk Medical Institute and the Minsk oncological center the Republican specialized center on thyroid gland oncopathology has been set up, in the 9-th clinical Minsk hospital the department of marrow transplant operations has been organized.

For 1986-1994 in accordance with the programs on liquidation of the Chernobyl accident consequences 295 installations of public health of 4858 beds and 22587 visits per shift have been constructed.

For the purpose of resolving a personnel problem in public health establishments of the affected regions the Ministry of Health has introduced a contract form of medical workers employment, the Gomel Medical Institute has been inaugurated, target intake of students in medical institutes has been widely used. Consolidation of the material base of public health services, use of up-to-date medical and diagnostic technologies, organizational measures enabled the Ministry of Health to examine almost all children and adults.

Measures for social protection of the affected population are mainly determined by a level of radioactive contamination in its residing and working places. Citizens moving from the compulsory resettlement zones are guaranteed provision of indemnification of charges related to the resettlement and completion of a new residence. For them special settlements have been erected in clean regions of the republic and apartments are under construction.

The volume and direction of the measures for social protection of participants in the liquidation of the Chernobyl NPP (Fig. 2.2.) accident consequences are stipulated by their special role and the degree of risk, which they took in the very first days of the accident working on the most dangerous and crucial sites. Thus, the prime role is allocated to measures on reduction of negative effect of radiation which they were exposed to.



- Number of citizens who participated in the liquidation of the consequences of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe in 1986-1987 in the zone of evacuation
- ▨ Number of citizens who participated in the liquidation of the consequences of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe in 1988-1989 in the zone of evacuation
- ▩ Number of the participants of the liquidation of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe consequences in 1986-1987 in the zones of initial and subsequent resettlement
- Number of participants of the liquidation of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe consequences - invalids

Fig. 2.2. Number of participants of the liquidation of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe consequences

Most benefits have been granted to people including children who have become invalids owing to the accident. They include free medical provision and vouchers to sanatorium treatment and rehabilitation, an additional paid leave, financial indemnification for health damage, annual payments on rehabilitation, reduction of the established pension age and an additional pension. A number of measures are aimed at the improvement of economic conditions for this category of citizens: privileges for taxation and obtaining credits, provision of a dwelling space, public transport and payment for municipal services, extra sums to scholarships, etc. The most significant of the foregoing benefits are also applied to the families of late Chernobyl invalids, who had participated in the liquidation of the Chernobyl NPP accident consequences.

Amidst measures for social protection of those affected by the Chernobyl NPP accident rehabilitation is of top priority. In accordance with the Law "On social protection of citizens affected by the Chernobyl NPP accident", 600 thousand people, including 512 thousand children and adolescents exercise their right to annual free-of-charge rehabilitation. (Fig. 2.3.)

Rehabilitation of persons affected by the accident is organized all year round. Vouchers for rehabilitation of mothers with children are primarily allocated in the spring-summer period. For children of school age conditions for continuation of study are created in rehabilitation establishments.

For the treatment and rest of the affected people 48 sanatoriums and rest establishments, 128 sanatoriums and preventive clinics, about 300 children's rehabilitation camps of the republic are used.

However, available facilities for rehabilitation are not able to provide absolute treatment and rehabilitation of Chernobyl victims using our own base. Measures on its expansion have been taken: 10 health resorts of 2123 places have been put in operation, in 1995-2000 at the

expense of the financial resources allotted to the liquidation of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe consequences 7029 places more are planned for rehabilitation establishments.

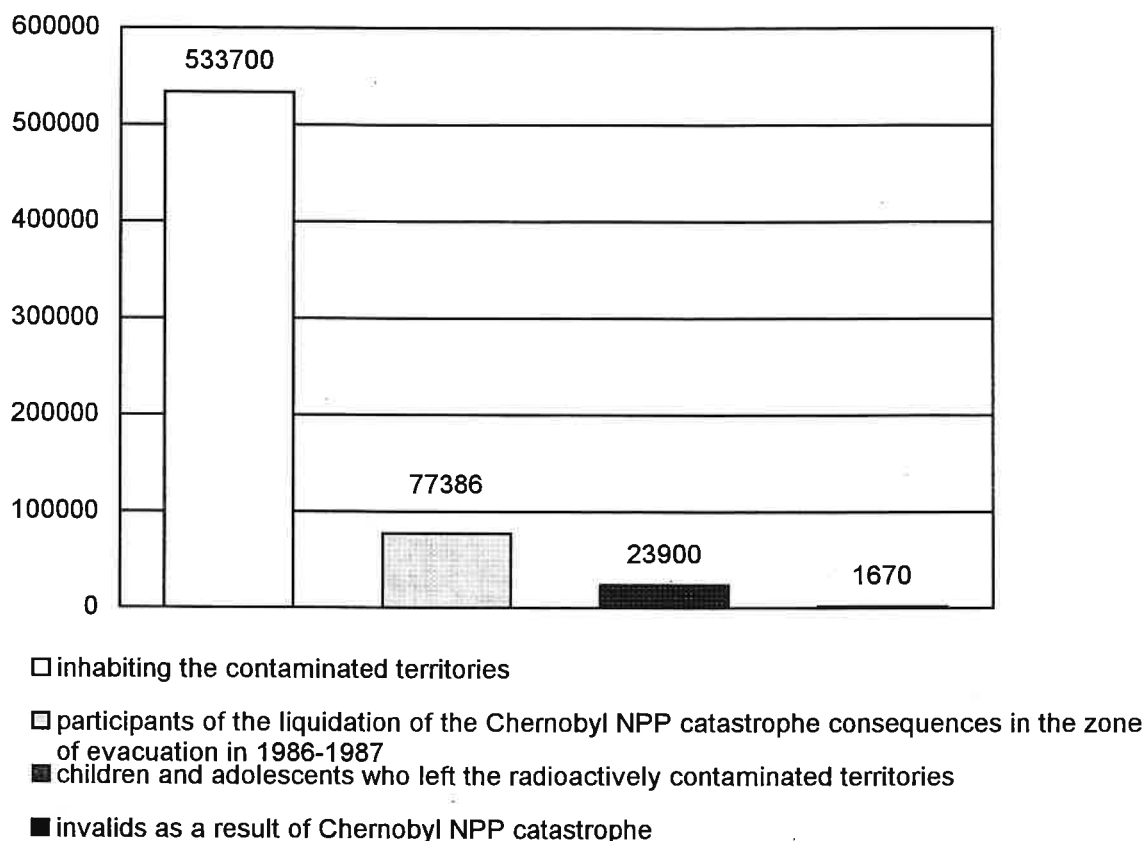


Fig. 2.3. Categories and number of citizens having the right to free-of-charge rehabilitation and sanatorium treatment

Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that specific weight of expenditures on rehabilitation annually makes up 40 % in the cost of the financing the implementation of the Law "On social protection of citizens affected by the Chernobyl NPP accident" the republic has no opportunity to rehabilitate 100 % of the affected population.

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of aid in the realm of children's rehabilitation which has been rendered to Belarus by countries of Western Europe as well as by far-away ones. For the last 5 years about 150 thousand children have been rehabilitated in 19 countries outside the republic (Germany, Italy, France, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Ireland, Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Romania, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Japan). Large volume of work in this sphere is carried out by more than 140 overseas public organizations and 80 in Belarus.