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Research paper

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## THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF WORKERS' SUPPLY OF DAGESTAN DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

*Abstract.* In the context of efforts to falsify historical facts and underestimate the government's wartime measures, an examination of the provision of food and industrial goods to the population becomes particularly relevant. The comprehensive exploration of this issue, utilizing Dagestan as a case study, remains incomplete and necessitates further investigation. A thorough analysis of these matters through the lens of labor supply departments enables a more comprehensive understanding of the wartime supply situation for the able-bodied segment of the population. Employing a comparative historical method, this study discusses the intertwined issues of rationed provision, the functioning of the stamp system, and the activities of the Departments of Workers' Supply (ORS). This approach facilitates an assessment of the effectiveness of the ORS system by comparing quantitative and qualitative indicators of food supply in the republic before and during the war. The principle of historicism enables the tracing of the adaptation process of the working population to the rationed supply system. Utilizing retrospective analysis and synthesizing newly introduced archival documents, this research offers a more exhaustive examination of the various stages in resolving support-related challenges. Special attention is given to the economic situation in Dagestan after the Nazi Germany invasion, emphasizing the food problem and the imperative to transition to a rationed system for supplying food and industrial goods to the population. The ORS system emerges as a key factor in ameliorating the food supply situation for workers, enhancing their nutrition, particularly during night shifts, and aligning the organization of supply with the demands of production.

*Keywords:* Great Patriotic War; Dagestan; departments of workers' supply; rationed provision; industrial goods.

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Исследовательская статья

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## РОЛЬ ОТДЕЛОВ РАБОЧЕГО СНАБЖЕНИЯ ДАГЕСТАНА В ГОДЫ ВЕЛИКОЙ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННОЙ ВОЙНЫ

*Аннотация.* В условиях попыток фальсификации истории, недооценки мер, принимавшихся правительством страны в годы Великой Отечественной войны, рассмотрение проблемы обеспечения населения продовольствием и промышленными товарами становится особенно актуальным. Комплекс вопросов данной проблемы на материале Дагестана не изучен в полной степени и заслуживает дальнейшей разработки. Рассмотрение вопросов через систему отделов рабочего снабжения даёт возможность представить положение со снабжением трудоспособной части населения в военный период в более полном объёме. Для изучения сочетания различных вопросов по проблеме нормированного обеспечения населения продовольствием, промышленными товарами, функционировании карточной системы, деятельности ОРСов использовались сравнительно-исторический метод, позволивший путем сравнения количественных и качественных показателей продовольственного обеспечения населения республики до и в военный период времени определить эффективность функционирования системы ОРСов. Принцип историзма позволил нам проследить процесс адаптации трудящихся республики к нормированной системе снабжения. Метод ретроспективного анализа и синтеза новых архивных документов, вводимых в научный оборот, позволил рассмотреть различные стадии решения проблем обеспечения более полно. Была определена экономическая ситуация, сложившаяся в Дагестане после нападения фашистской Германии, особое внимание уделено рассмотрению продовольственной проблемы, необходимости перехода к нормированной системе снабжения населения продовольственными и промышленными товарами. Система ОРСов содействовала улучшению положения со снабжением трудящихся продовольствием, налаживанию их питания, особенно в ночную смену, сближению организации снабжения рабочих с производством.

*Ключевые слова:* Великая Отечественная война; Дагестан; отделы рабочего снабжения; продовольствие; нормированное снабжение; промышленные товары

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The study of the history of the Great Patriotic War remains crucial today, driven by the discovery of new archival documents shedding light on understudied issues of both the front and rear. This pursuit is especially relevant amid the persistent falsification of events from that era. The incorporation of new data into scholarly discourse expands the scope of research, introducing previously overlooked or taboo subjects that, for various reasons, remained beyond the scope of Soviet historiography [1].

Among the significant challenges during the Great Patriotic War was the provision of food and industrial goods to the country's population. The well-established efforts in the rear, coupled with the government's implementation of measures for social protection, emerged as key factors contributing to the USSR's victory. Amid shortages of essential goods for the population in the rear, the departments of workers' supply (hereinafter ORS) within plant administrations played a pivotal role. Tasked with ensuring an uninterrupted production process at enterprises, labor supply departments were instrumental in meeting the needs of workers and their families.

The first comprehensive analysis of the USSR's economic development during the Great Patriotic War, encompassing issues such as the supply of food and industrial goods, as well as the organization of the ORS at enterprises, was undertaken by N.A. Voznesensky [2]. The second half of the 50s (after the XX Congress of the CPSU) marked a new stage in the examination of the Great Patriotic War's history. This period was characterized by an improved creative environment within the scientific community and increased access for researchers to archival sources. The expansion of the source base for historical research led to heightened efforts in studying rear-related issues.

In the 1960s, notable works by U.G. Chernyavsky [3] and A.V. Lyubimov [4] emerged. U.G. Chernyavsky's monograph, for instance, utilized the example of urban population as a social category to illustrate the process of food supply. Subsequently, in the 1970s, a comprehensive endeavor commenced and concluded in 1983 with the publication of the twelve-volume "History of the Second World War. 1939-1945" [5]. This monumental work, based on extensive generalizing material, delved into the primary issues of World War II history, including those related to the Soviet rear [6].

Dagestan historians also contributed significantly with their collective work titled "Dagestan during the Great Patriotic War," in two volumes [7, 8]. The first volume is dedicated to the recollections of Dagestani front-line soldiers, while the second compiles the memories of workers from various sectors of the republic's economy during the war years.

The collection of articles, titled "Patriotic and labor feats of the working people of Dagestan during the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945)" [9], offers a comprehensive exploration of the economic and spiritual aspects of the republic's working population from 1941 to 1945. Noteworthy is the work of B.U. Gadzhiev, "Development of state trade" [10], which uniquely focuses on the post-war period and analyzes the development of state trade in 1941-1945 through the examination of statistical material.

The candidate's thesis by Efendieva D.A. [11] discusses the experience of rationed supply of food and industrial goods to the population of Dagestan during the war period. Additionally, the effectiveness of the ORS in providing food to the working population is addressed in the articles by Grigoriev A.D., Krasnozhennova E.E., Kulik S.V., and Emirkhanov I.A. [12; 13; 14].

The monograph by V. Skvortsov and M. Frolov provides valuable data on the occupation of a significant territory of the Soviet Union by Nazi troops [15].

The national economy of the country experienced a temporary setback during the Great Patriotic War, with a loss of 33% of all industrial output, 63% of coal production, 71% of iron production, 58% of steel, 45% of crop area, and 45% of livestock [15, p. 218]. These challenging conditions led to a decline in the production of both food and industrial goods. Specifically, meat production at enterprises under the USSR Ministry of Industry of Meat and Dairy Products in 1941 decreased to 973 thousand tons, representing only 77% of the pre-war level [3, p. 59]. This reduction was influenced by the shift of numerous enterprises to the production of military goods. Additionally, the food supply challenge was exacerbated by the influx of evacuated populations from the front and front-line regions to the rear.

These circumstances compelled the implementation of state rationed supplies for food and essential consumer goods to the population. The introduction of the stamp system in the USSR during the war years is regarded by several Russian scholars as a justified measure by the Soviet government. Initially, it was instituted through a decree of the Council of People's Commissars (hereinafter CPC) of the USSR on July 18, 1941, in central cities such as Moscow, Leningrad, and their suburbs [6, p. 111]. In Dagestan, rationed supplies were mandated by a decree of the CPC of the DASSR and the Bureau of the Dagestan Regional Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks (hereinafter CPSU(b)) on August 22, 1941, in major cities of the republic such as Makhachkala, Derbent, Buinaksk, Khasavyurt, and urban-type workers' settlements including Makhachkala-1, Dvigatelstroy, Izberbash, and Dagestanskie Ogni.<sup>1</sup> By 1945, the stamp system had been extended to cover 1,036 organizations and enterprises.<sup>2</sup>

In Dagestan, from 1941 to 1945, the number of organizations and enterprises receiving stamps from the stamp bureau saw an increase: house managements – from 23 to 33, institutions – from 350 to 435, industrial enterprises – from 191 to 202, and other organizations – from 222 to 366.<sup>3</sup>

By the beginning of 1942, rationed food supplies had become widespread across the country. The organizational efforts to supply the population of the republic with stamps were overseen by the food stamp bureau under the CPC of the DASSR, as well as city stamp bureaus under the executive committees of the city Councils of Working People's Deputies.

Local bureaus had various responsibilities, encompassing planning and accounting for the supplied population in distinct groups based on the size of state supply, development of food supply standards, restructuring the organizational framework of the retail network due to the introduction of closed forms of trade, providing the population with stamps, and overseeing food sales [3, p. 96]. The management, instruction, and control over the work of regional bureaus were conducted by the Department for Standardized Supply of the People's

1. Order of the PCT of the DASSR dated August 23, 1941 No. 161. "On the introduction of stamps for bread, sugar and confectionery". Central State Archives of the Republic of Dagestan) hereinafter CSA RD). F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 100. L. 21-22 rev.; Order of the PCT of the DASSR dated October 23, 1941 No. 199. "On the introduction of stamps for bread, sugar and confectionery in the city of Khasavyurt and working settlements of the fishing industry". CSA RD. F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 114. L. 32.

2. Report on the work of the stamp bureau of the republic dated August 22, 1941 to June 1, 1947. CSA RD. F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 254. L. 48 rev.

3. Ibid.

Commissariat of Trade (hereinafter PCT) of the USSR through the bureau under the PCT of the Union Republics.

The primary criterion for rationing was the division of consumer goods based on the quantity and quality of labor. A pivotal turn in this approach occurred with the resolution of the CPC of the DASSR, dated October 30, 1942,<sup>4</sup> outlining the procedure for supplying food and industrial goods to workers at industrial enterprises. According to this resolution, directors of industrial enterprises were granted the authority to allocate specific benefits in the supply order to workers who met or exceeded production standards. This encompassed not only priority in the sale of industrial goods on stamps, and certain food products (excluding bread), but also additional hot meals, extra leave beyond established norms on food stamps for items such as potatoes, vegetables, eggs, dairy, and other products. Furthermore, workers with higher production standards were given priority in the supply of consumer goods. Hence, the differentiated principle of distributing goods served as a motivating factor [11, p. 24].

The categorization of goods among different population groups introduced a certain flexibility into the rationing system. Consequently, the principle of differentiated supply became widespread and served as a distinctive feature of the stamp system from 1941 to 1945. According to A.V. Lyubimov, this approach played a crucial role in preserving people's health, fostering the development of a new generation, and promoting productive work [4, p. 44].

While bread was universally provided to all cities and workers' settlements without exception, the rationing system for meat, fish, cereals, and pasta did not cover every city. The quota for bread was not monthly but daily, and it remained consistent; bread was not interchangeable with other products. By January 1, 1943, 62 million people in the country were supplied with bread, and by January 1, 1945, the number had risen to 74 million people [4, p. 53].

In Dagestan, the supply of rationed bread in cities included workers, dependents, and children. The respective numbers were 2,661,641 people in 1942, 2,066,503 people in 1943, 1,945,338 people in 1944, and 1,945,338 people in 1945 (*calculated by the author*) [4, p. 53].<sup>5</sup>

Special provisions were made for the invalids of the Great Patriotic War and the families of Heroes of the Soviet Union. To cater to the needs of these groups, months of assistance were organized, focusing on providing food and clothing. Families of front-line soldiers in dire circumstances were identified, orphanages were established on collective farms, funds from workdays were directed to support the families of front-line soldiers, and initiatives such as renovating apartments and delivering firewood were implemented.<sup>6</sup> The resolution of the CPSU(b) on January 21, 1943, titled "On measures to improve the work of Soviet bodies and local party organizations in providing assistance to families of the military members," led to the adoption of a similar resolution on February 17, 1943, by the CPC of the DASSR and the bureau of the regional committee of the CPSU(b).

4. Resolution of the CPC of the DASSR "On the procedure for supplying workers of industrial enterprises with food and industrial goods" dated October 30, 1942. CSA RD. F.r-168. Inv. 27. File 56. L. 438.

5. Report on the work of the stamp bureau of the republic from August 22, 1941 to June 1, 1947. CSA RD. F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 254. L. 50.

6. Dagestanskaya Pravda. December 3, 1944.

In Dagestan, a dedicated trading network was established for the families of front-line soldiers and disabled individuals of the Great Patriotic War. In 1943, this network facilitated the sale of various industrial goods to the families of front-line soldiers for 2,279 thousand rubles and to disabled individuals of the Great Patriotic War for 660 thousand rubles.<sup>7</sup>

Months' campaigns were also designated for contributions to the fund to aid the families of front-line soldiers, involving the transfer of food, wool, sheepskins, industrial goods, and money. For instance, on the collective farm named after M. Dakhadaev in the Untsukul district in 1943, these families received 1,740 kg of potatoes, approximately a ton of grain, and a thousand rubles.<sup>8</sup> On December 5, 1943, collective farmers in the Kulinsky district collected 25 tons of grain, 6 tons of potatoes, 157 kg of butter, and 50,830 rubles in money for the families of front-line soldiers. Additionally, 1363 kg of wool were collected, and on the collective farm G. Saidov, this wool was utilized to make felt boots for the children of soldiers.<sup>9</sup>

In 1944, the fund to aid the families of front-line soldiers in the regions of the republic received significant contributions, including 1871 tons of grain, 440 tons of potatoes, 8.4 tons of butter, 21.9 tons of cheese, 81.6 tons of dried fruits, 61.7 tons of vegetables, 39.6 tons of wool, 20,388 sheepskins, 6765 items of clothing, 5658 pairs of shoes, 3176 meters of textiles, 880 pieces of leather, 2536 heads of cattle, 5758 heads of sheep and goats, and 7,632 thousand rubles.<sup>10</sup>

In many instances, Dagestanis demonstrated compassion for the families of military personnel in need, with individuals making personal contributions to improve their situations. For example, the chairman of the executive committee of the Andiysky village council, Galaev, and the chairman of the drilling artel in the village Rakhata, Burzhuev, each contributed 1000 rubles to the fund. Students of the Botlikh secondary school also collected 5 thousand rubles and 1 ton of fruits and vegetables for the same cause.<sup>11</sup>

Among the population groups requiring differentiated supplies, children held a special position. In 24-hour kindergartens and nurseries, children were provided with meals using ration stamps submitted by their parents. In schools, bread, bakery products, sugar, and confectionery were sold without stamps, adhering to the average norm of 50 g of bread and 10 g of sugar per child.<sup>12</sup> Students engaged in workshops during holidays received food according to the norm applicable to workers in the corresponding industry. For pupils in orphanages and boarding schools located in rural areas, the supply of sugar and fats was increased to 25 g per day during the summer period, and an additional 15 g of chocolate and 5 g of cocoa were provided per child per day.<sup>13</sup>

7. Explanatory note to the report of the Dagestan Republican auction for 1943 (section on economic and operational activities). CSA RD. F. r- 1214. Inv. 1. File 10. L. 10.

8. Dagestanskaya Pravda. December 12, 1943.

9. Ibid.

10. Dagestanskaya Pravda. December 3, 1944.

11. Dagestanskaya Pravda. November 21, 1944.

12. Resolution of the CPC of the DASSR and the Bureau of the Regional CPSU(b). No. 936 of September 8, 1941 "On the addition to the resolution of the CPC of the DASSR and the Bureau of the Regional Committee of the CPSU (b) dated August 22, 1941 No. 859 "On the introduction of a stamp system for bread, confectionery and sugar". CSA RD. F.r-168. Inv. 34. File 59. L. 251 rev.

13. Order of the People's Commissariat of the DASSR dated May 29, 1944 No. 64. "On measures to strengthen the health of children in the summer of 1944". CSA RD. F. r-32. Inv. 42. File 36. L. 37, 37 rev.

Collective farm orphanages were established in various districts of Dagestan, serving specific numbers of children. For instance, in the Gunibsky district, an orphanage operated for 50 people, in Kasumkentsky – for 54 people, in Kumtorkalinsky for – 50 people, in Buynaksky – for 100 people, in Khivsky – for 100 people, and in Khasavyurtsky – for 15 people.<sup>14</sup> In line with the resolution of the CPC of the DASSR dated September 23, 1943, titled “On improving the work of orphanages,” and at the request of the People’s Commissariat of Education of the DASSR, the PCT of the DASSR allocated and supplied specific food products to collective farm orphanages per child per month. These included 500 g of sugar and confectionery, 25 g of tea, 200 g of salt, 60 g of coffee, 60 g of cocoa, 400 g of laundry soap, 4 liters of kerosene for every 15 beds, and 5 boxes of matches.<sup>15</sup>

The PCT of the DASSR established food supply standards for children in infant homes under one year old and others. Additionally, standards were set for dairy kitchens per child per day.<sup>16</sup> The monthly food allowance for children of front-line soldiers in canteens could be brought up to the standards of industry and communications workers, including 1800 g of meat or fish, 1200 g of cereals, 400 g of fats, 400 g of sugar, and 150 g of flour for adding mixture.<sup>17</sup>

To cater to people without stamps, the government initially maintained a small number of shops, cafes, and restaurants for trading without stamps at increased prices at the beginning of the war. However, with the widespread implementation of the stamp system in 1942-1943, such trading practices were discontinued.

The implementation of rationed food supplies in the country elevated the significance of public catering, serving as the primary form of nutrition for many workers and employees. In retail trade turnover, the share of public catering approximately doubled in 1943 compared to 1940 [16, p. 163]. By 1945, it remained roughly at the 1943 level [17, p. 337]. As of January 1, 1945, there were 54.8 thousand public catering establishments in the country [4, p. 111]. Its expansion was particularly notable within the ORS system at industrial enterprises.

The evolution of the ORS system during the Great Patriotic War unfolded against the backdrop of worsening conditions on the Soviet-German front in the latter half of 1942. By the autumn of that year, Soviet Army units had retreated to the foothills of the Caucasus and Stalingrad. Dagestan, situated on the front lines, became a crucial rear area for “the Soviet troops defending the Caucasus and the Baku oil region”, as noted by A. Daniyalov, the chairman of the CPC of the DASSR during the Great Patriotic War [7, p. 10]. F. Rogov, the head of weaving production at the factory of the Third International, reflected on the challenging times: “As the front approached Dagestan in 1942, the difficulties increased even more. In addition to working at the factory, we had to participate in the construction of defensive lines and shelters. Using picks, crowbars, and shovels, we dug deep anti-tank ditches in the rocky ground” [8, p. 147]. I. Trantsev, the chief technologist of the plant

14. Order of the People’s Commissariat of the USSR and the Central Union of the USSR and the RSFSR No. 430/826 dated December 24, 1942 “On the procedure for supplying bread in rural areas using ration stamps”. CSA RD. F.r. 32. Inv. 42. File 36. L. 68.

15. Ibid.

16. Order of the CPC of the DASSR R-504 dated July 20, 1944. Appendix No. 1. Standards for the supply of food to children in an orphanage (per month). CSA RD. F.r. 491. Inv. 8. File 192. L. 64.

17. Letter of permission from Dagtorg to increase food standards in canteens for children of front-line soldiers to the standards of industry workers. CSA RD. F.r. 491. Inv. 8. File 192. L. 1.

named after M. Gadzhiev, also highlighted the deteriorating food supply during wartime in 1942: “The bread ration received on ration stamps was not so good in terms of nutritional quality. Lunch in the canteen had gotten worse, and the long working day was draining. Those working on the night shift were especially tired” [8, p. 140]. The front-line situation altered the significance of Dagestan as a country of mountains and turned it into a crucial strategic point. This transformation imposed special demands on the economy of Dagestan, particularly its industry and transport [18, p. 77].

Dagestan faced objective challenges in agriculture during the war. Winter crops were affected by freezing, and the harvest of spring crops, particularly corn, was minimal. In the Tlyaratinsky and Gumbetovskiy districts, the kutans of collective farms covering over 500 hectares were flooded by the waters of the Terek River due to the construction of defensive structures, resulting in negligible yields. Additionally, crops in Botlikh, Tsumadinsky, Laksky, and other regions were damaged by passing evacuated cattle and livestock of military units, with only a small amount being harvested by the collective farmers themselves.<sup>18</sup> Subjective factors, such as the failure of machine and tractor stations to meet production plans and the proximity of the front line, exacerbated the situation.

In response to these challenges, a tense situation developed in the republic with regards to state grain and fodder resources. Consequently, the CPC of the DASSR and the CPSU(b) Regional Committee were compelled to implement significant reductions in bread consumption. This involved reducing grain allocations for urban residents, rural and seasonal consumers (such as workers in the fishing industry, state farms, and shepherds), one-time consumers (including the evacuated population and those engaged in defensive work), and lowering the standards of public catering establishments and other organizations. The resolutions dated October 16, 1942, “On the strictest economy of grain funds in the republic,” and November 27, 1942, “On measures for the economical use of grain products,” were enacted with the aim of addressing these challenges.<sup>19</sup>

Starting from December 1, 1942, adjustments were made to the standards for bread distribution based on stamps and lists for workers of the first and second categories, as well as employees of the first category. The reductions amounted to 100 g per day.<sup>20</sup> Consequently, the revised norms for the supply and sale of bread per person per day, according to stamps and lists, were as follows: workers and technical workers of the 1st category – 700 g, 2nd category – 500 g, employees of the 1st and 2nd categories – 400g, dependents of the 1st and 2nd categories in cities – 400 g, in rural areas – 300 g.<sup>21</sup> Simultaneously, the PCT of Dagestan, along with the executive committees of city councils and city committees of the CPSU(b), were instructed to discontinue issuing food stamps in cities and workers’ settlements to able-bodied adult citizens who were not employed in state and public organizations.

18. Information from the department of trade and public catering of the CPSU(b) Regional Committee. 1943 “On the expenditure of state market grain funds in the republic”. CSA RD. F.p-1. Inv. 1. File 5811. L. 66.

19. Resolution of the CPC of the DASSR and the CPSU Regional Committee of October 16, 1942 “On the strictest economy of grain funds in the republic”. CSA RD. F.r-168. Inv. 27. File 57. L. 402-404; Resolution of the CPC of the DASSR and the CPSU Regional Committee dated November 27, 1942 “On measures for the economical consumption of grain products”. CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 1. File 5243. L. 25-28.

20. Information from the department of trade and public catering of the CPSU Regional Committee. 1943 “On the expenditure of state market grain funds in the republic”. CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 1. File 5811. L. 64.

21. Resolution of the CPC of the DASSR and the bureau of the CPSU Regional Committee dated November 27, 1942 “On measures for the economical consumption of grain products”. CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 1. D. 5243. L. 25.



The ORSs were established based on the decision of the CPC of the USSR on April 9, 1942, with the aim of ensuring the uninterrupted supply of workers in critical sectors of the national economy of the USSR. Throughout 1942, approximately two thousand ORSs were created nationwide [19, p. 328]. Some operating enterprises of the PCT and other organizations were transferred to ORSs free of charge. In the DASSR, 24 ORSs were established at industrial enterprises [18, p. 140–141].

As of January 1, 1946, there were a total of 90 public catering establishments in the republic, including 71 shops and 52 within the public catering system, which comprised 43 canteens and restaurants.<sup>22</sup> An analysis of the state of retail turnover of ORSs in Dagestan from 1942 to 1945 indicates continuous growth. For instance, in 1942, the turnover amounted to 28,062 thousand rubles, in 1943 – 34,258 thousand rubles, in 1944 – 36,600 thousand rubles, and in 1945 – 49,600 thousand rubles.<sup>23</sup>

In connection with the creation of ORSs, the importance of the main trading systems in trade turnover has changed. ORS and food supplies occupied an increasing place in trade turnover. In the first half of 1945, their share in the entire retail turnover of state and cooperative trade in the country was 27.5%, compared to 17.8% in the first half of 1942 [4, p. 62]. The share of ORS in public catering turnover was especially large: 29% in the first half of 1942 and 43% for the same period in 1945 [4, pp. 62–63].

**Table 1. Dynamics of turnover of public catering organizations in Dagestan for 1942-1944 (in thousand rub.)<sup>24</sup>**

Organization	Year			
	1942	1943	1944	1945
1. Trade	33551	19608	6197	-
2. Consumers' Co-op.	3956	3216	-	-
3. ORS	10041	12735	17100	18400

The trend of exceeding retail turnover plans in the activities of public catering organizations in Dagestan was quite stable. Thus, the retail turnover plan was fulfilled for 1942 – by 10,041 thousand rubles, for 1943 – by 12,735 thousand rubles, for 1944 – by 17,100 thousand rubles, for 1945 – by 18,400 thousand rubles [11, p. 52].

In Dagestan, the public catering network in 1942 consisted of 149 enterprises.<sup>25</sup> However, the quality of customer service left much to be desired, with frequent shortages of basic

22. Report on the economic activities of the Ministry of Trade of the DASSR for 1945. CSA RD. F. r-260. Inv. 23. File 70. L. 56, 56 rev.

23. Results of the national economic activities of the PCT of the DASSR for 1943. CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 1. File 6144. L. 28; Preliminary results of the implementation of the public catering turnover plan for 1943 according to the DASSR. CSA RD. Fp-1. Inv. 1. File 5806. L. 21; Preliminary results of the implementation of the national economy plan of the DASSR for 1944 for trade turnover, livestock breeding, agriculture and motor transport. CSA RD. F. r-260. Inv. 23. File 43. L. 1; Report on the economic activities of the PCT for 1945. CSA RD. F. r-491. Inv. 8. File 231. L. 1.

24. Information on the results of the implementation of the national economic plan of the DASSR for 1940-1944. CSA RD. F. r-260. Inv. 20. File 140. L. 83.

25. Information from the Department of Trade and Public Catering of the Dagestan Regional Committee of the CPSU on the state of trade in the republic. 09.22.1942. CSA RD. F.p-1. Inv. 1. File 5462. L. 2 rev.

items such as spoons, plates, and forks.<sup>26</sup> The poor quality of food resulted in gastrointestinal diseases in agricultural and medical institutes, as well as numerous cases of culling and destruction of products.

The predominant type of public catering enterprise and rationed supply during the war years were canteens; their number in the country at the end of 1944 was 54 thousand compared to 44.5 thousand before the war [4, p. 112]. At the beginning of the war, the number of canteens in a number of places, especially in Derbent, decreased. The republican press reacted vividly to the situation with unsanitary conditions and poor service in canteens, for example, the Buinaksky cannery, the city of Khasavyurt<sup>27</sup>, canteen No. 3 of the Makhachkala public catering trust.<sup>28</sup>

The press also reacted to positive work experiences: in Makhachkala, the canteens of the fish canning plant, managed by Volkova, and the cooperage factory, where Bril worked as the manager, received acclaim for their large selection of dishes, low prices, and ample food supply.<sup>29</sup> Canteen No. 1 in the urban village of Izberbash garnered significant gratitude from the public in 1942.<sup>30</sup>

In Dagestan in 1943, there were 179 canteens<sup>31</sup>, and among them, the canteens of the Kumukh, Untsukul, and Akushinsky district consumer societies were recognized as the best.<sup>32</sup>

Ration stamps could be purchased in the canteens and buffets of government institutions. However, the range of dishes produced was extremely limited due to a shortage of vegetables and potatoes. Consequently, second courses often comprised only salted fish without any sauces or seasonings.

In addition to distributing the resulting products among workers, engineering and technical workers, and employees of enterprises, along with their families, the tasks of the ORS included the creation of their own food supplies through initiatives such as establishing their own farms, utilizing fish fauna, forest fruits, and processing collected products. To achieve this, auxiliary production and agricultural enterprises, as well as more than 550 state farms from various systems, were transferred to ORS, enabling the creation of sometimes quite large decentralized funds of food products. Approximately 30 thousand farms were established in the ORS system [19, p. 331].

Throughout the war years, about 800 state farms were transferred to industrial ministries, including 275 state farms from the system of the People's Commissariat of State Farms [19, p. 72]. Farms such as state farms held a significant share of the total number of farms associated with food trade, food supplies, or were part of the system of the PCT and Main Directorate of Workers' Supply. The share of vegetable gardens was particularly large (95%) in the subsidiary plots of educational institutions [3, p. 133–134].

26. Resolution of the XI Plenum of the Dagestan Regional Committee of the CPSU of December 25, 1941 "On the leadership of city and district committees of the CPSU in trade and public catering". CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 1. File 4892. L. 75.

27. Dagestanskaya Pravda. March 5, 1942.

28. Dagestanskaya Pravda. January 25, 1942.

29. Ibid.

30. Dagestanskaya Pravda. March 5, 1942.

31. Preliminary results of the national economic activity of the PCT of the DASSR for 1943. CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 1. File 6139. L. 12.

32. Information on the implementation of the decision of the CPC of the DASSR and the Regional Committee of the CPSU (b) on issues of agriculture, the development of livestock farming, public catering, bakery and production of consumer goods from local raw materials for 1943. CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 1. File 5806. L. 184.

Most of the subsidiary farms in Dagestan were multioriented, encompassing a range of activities. These included farms affiliated with trading organizations and industrial enterprises. For instance, in the subsidiary farm of the Buinaksky cannery, activities involved vegetable growing, sowing of legumes, cereals, fodder crops, dairy farming, fattening pigs, poultry farming, and beekeeping. Similarly, the subsidiary farm of the Derbent Canning Factory included fruit growing, viticulture, and berry cultivation.<sup>33</sup>

Many subsidiary farms in 1942 became the foundation for providing agricultural products to factory canteens. The subsidiary farms of the DASSR industry cultivated 2,248 hectares of vegetables, melons, grains, and fodder crops, representing a 54% increase in the sown area compared to 1941. The Buinaksky cannery achieved notable success in organizing subsidiary farms.<sup>34</sup>

Despite certain improvements in the development of subsidiary farms, there were also shortcomings in their operations. The resolution of the CPC of the DASSR and the Bureau of the CPSU(b) Regional Committee of the All-Union dated November 28, 1942, pointed out various deficiencies in their work. These included the underestimation of the importance of this type of work in supplying the population with goods by the leaders of many industrial and commercial enterprises and their party organizations. Additionally, there was an inability to run a profitable economy, along with other hindrances such as poor quality of agricultural work, unsatisfactory organization of pig feeding, inadequate development of poultry farming and dairy farming, insufficient supply of feed, and the absence of branches such as fruit growing, viticulture, and the development of berry fields in most subsidiary farms. The farms made extremely insufficient use of agricultural loans. Consequently, Dagestan's industrial enterprises in 1942 did not receive 2,666 tons of vegetables and 550 tons of potatoes against the planned supply for their workers and employees.<sup>35</sup>

Trade organizations made significant progress in developing subsidiary farms in 1943. In 16 farms belonging to ten trading organizations, there were 1,053.6 hectares of land, with 624.6 hectares suitable for cultivation. On these lands, 554.5 hectares were sown, representing a 46.7% increase compared to 1942 when the sown area was 379.4 hectares.<sup>36</sup>

In 1944, the PCT of the DASSR operated 6 subsidiary farms with a total land area of 548 hectares, including 103.6 hectares under temporary use.<sup>37</sup> Compared to 1943, there was an increase in the sown areas in the republic's subsidiary farms in 1944, amounting to 43% for potatoes and 100% for vegetables.<sup>38</sup> Through the People's Commissariat for Foreign and Internal Trade of the DASSR, subsidiary farms engaged in horticulture and viticulture. In 1944, they planted 501 fruit trees and 5,000 grape bushes. The vegetable yield for 1944 was reported to be 115-150 centners, surpassing the plan of 100 centners.<sup>39</sup>

33. Resolution of the CPC of the DASSR and the Bureau of the Dagestan Regional Committee of the CPSU(b) dated November 28, 1942 "On the results of the work of subsidiary farms of industrial and trade organizations for 1942 and measures for their further development." CSA RD. F.p-1. Inv. 1. File 5243. L. 39.

34. Ibid.

35. Ibid. L. 39-40.

36. Report of the Deputy Secretary of the CPSU(b) Regional Committee for Trade and Public Catering Gereev at a meeting of heads and chief accountants of ORSs on August 25, 1944. CSA RD. F.p-1. Inv. 1. File 6144. L. 34.

37. Explanatory note to the annual report of the PCT DASSR for 1944. CSA RD. F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 195. L. 14 rev.

38. Resolution of the Bureau of the Dagestan Regional Committee of the CPSU(b) dated April 17, 1945 "On the results of the work of subsidiary farms of industrial enterprises and institutions and measures for their further development". CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 27. File 19. L. 135.

39. Conclusion No. 133 on the trade and economic activities of local trades and canteen trusts of the DASSR for 1944. CSA

In 1945, the number of subsidiary farms associated with industrial enterprises and trade organizations increased compared to 1944, reaching a total of 794. Nearly all people's commissariats and enterprises were involved in subsidiary farming by 1945. These farms cultivated grain crops, vegetables, and potatoes on a combined area of 7,607 hectares, with 5,042 hectares in lowlands and 595 hectares in mountainous regions. In 1945, more winter crops were harvested on 82 hectares of land compared to the previous year.<sup>40</sup> The livestock development plan, especially for cows, was also successfully fulfilled.<sup>41</sup> The quantitative growth of subsidiary farms for industrial and trade organizations during the Great Patriotic War indicated their widespread development.

The expansion of gardening also contributed to improving the overall food supply to the population. This development was influenced by the availability of vacant land near housing, the supply levels of potatoes and vegetables in state and collective farm trade, the influence of well-established market gardening zones, and other factors.

During the Great Patriotic War, both individual and collective gardening efforts at enterprises, institutions, and among individual workers were actively supported by the state. The resolution of the CPC of the DASSR and the bureau of the CPSU(b) Regional Committee, dated March 12, 1942, emphasized the importance of mass development of vegetable gardening. This resolution urged the executive committees of city and village Soviets to utilize preserved land plots designated for industrial and other construction projects as additional sources of land for cultivating vegetable gardens.<sup>42</sup>

By the end of 1942, workers and employees in the republic not only received but also cultivated 14,400 individual vegetable gardens, covering an area of 402.11 hectares.<sup>43</sup> On June 19, 1943, the CPC of the DASSR issued a resolution exempting the income of workers and employees from agricultural taxation if derived from their gardens. In total, 14,030 individuals participated in collective and individual gardening efforts in Dagestan in 1943, with 509 hectares of arable land allocated for this purpose.<sup>44</sup>

However, in several districts such as Khasavyurt, Derbent, and Kasumkent, the efforts of party, Soviet, and trade union organizations in addressing the issue of gardening were notably weak. There seemed to be a lack of understanding regarding the seriousness of the food problem during wartime conditions. Consequently, workers and employees from individual enterprises and institutions received land plots for vegetable gardens belatedly. They faced challenges such as not being able to acquire the necessary seeds and seedlings on time and lacking sufficient hand tools like hoes, rakes, and shovels.<sup>45</sup> For instance, at the Dvigatelstroy plant, only 30% of families expressed a desire to have garden plots, and at the III International factory and the M. Gadzhiev plant in Makhachkala, only 20% of workers took

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RD. F. r-491. Inv. 8. File 195. L. 2.

40. Results of the work of subsidiary farms for 1945. CSA RD. F.p-1. Inv. 1. File 6446. L. 101-102.

41. Ibid. L. 104.

42. Resolution of the CPC of the DASSR and the bureau of the CPSU(b) Regional committee, dated March 12, 1942 "On the mass development of gardening". CSA RD. F.p-1. Inv. 1. File 5420. L. 165.

43. Information on harvesting vegetable and melon crops for subsidiary plots of industrial enterprises and individual gardens of workers and employees. CSA RD. F.p-1. Inv. 23. File 368. L. 230.

44. Telegram to Moscow All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions Comrade Nikolaev from the Secretary of the CPSU(b) Regional Committee Agababov. CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 26. File 432. L. 54.

45. Resolution of the CPC of the DASSR and the Bureau of the Regional Committee of the CPSU(b), dated December 8, 1943. CSA RD. F.p-1. Inv. 24. File 16. L. 337.

up garden plots. There were even cases where workers and employees of various enterprises, institutions, and transportation were denied access to land for vegetable gardens. The majority of workers at the Derbent railway junction and schools and kindergartens in the village of Makhachkala-1, for example, did not receive garden plots due to the unsatisfactory work of the Makhachkala and Derbent city executive committees in locating vacant land plots for vegetable gardens.<sup>46</sup>

In 1944, a total of 31,293 people in Dagestan participated in collective and individual gardening, utilizing 2,117 hectares of arable land.<sup>47</sup> Remarkable efforts were made in regions such as Khasavyurt, the city of Makhachkala, the village of Izberbash, and others. However, there were areas, including Kayakentsky, Agulsky, Botlikhsky, Laksy, and others, where workers and employees were not provided with vegetable gardens until 1944.<sup>48</sup>

Despite some shortcomings in development, gardening in Dagestan during the war years became widespread and contributed to improving the supply of potatoes, vegetables, and herbs to the population. Vegetable gardening and the subsidiary farming system played a crucial role in addressing the challenges of food supply. The significance of subsidiary farms was particularly emphasized in the production of vegetables, which differed from potatoes in terms of cultivation specifics. Individual and collective gardening played a vital role in providing the urban population with a more abundant supply of potatoes compared to the subsidiary plots of enterprises and institutions.

The rationing of non-food products was also implemented for the country's population, and stamps for these goods were introduced in all cities and workers' settlements by mid-1942. The stamp system utilized a specific number of unit coupons, with 125 coupons for workers and engineers, 100 for employees, and 80 for dependents [4, p. 41]. In Dagestan, the introduction of stamps for industrial goods in cities, workers' settlements, and rural areas was mandated by the order of the PCT of the DASSR dated April 10, 1942.<sup>49</sup>

The stamps were typically issued for 6-9 months, and the distribution of the most scarce items was facilitated through orders, which were allocated to workers and employees at various enterprises and institutions. Sets of linen for newborns were sold without stamps but required orders, which were distributed through the city commerce departments via the stamp bureau. Additionally, bonuses were sometimes provided in the form of industrial goods [19, p. 333]. Starting in 1943, certain categories of workers were allowed to purchase industrial goods for a specific amount using special limit books, in addition to their main stamp. The rural population received their supply of industrial goods through consumer cooperation, funded by centralized funds allocated to cooperative stores.

In contrast to the supply order established for food products, the provision of non-food products was not guaranteed by the issuance of stamps for a strictly fixed quantity of certain goods. Until 1944, the supply of industrial goods to Dagestan decreased. It was only from 1945 that a steady trend of increasing their number began to prevail, which was associated

46. Resolution of the CPC of the DASSR dated April 8, 1943. CSA RD. F.r-168. Inv. 28. File 32. L. 262

47. Telegram to Moscow All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions Comrade Nikolaeva from the Secretary of the CPSU(b) Regional Committee Agababov. CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 26. File 432. L. 54.

48. Resolution of the Bureau of the Regional Committee of the CPSU(b) dated February 9, 1945 "On measures for the further development of individual and collective gardening of workers and employees". CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 27. File 18. L. 203.

49. Order of the PCT of the DASSR dated April 10, 1942. CSA RD. F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 142. L. 80.

with the end of the war. The data in Table No. 2 illustrates the dynamics of the supply of basic industrial goods to the DASSR in the period from 1941 to 1945.

**Table 2. Basic industrial goods inflow into the DASSR in the period from 1941 to 1945 (in thousand rub.).<sup>50</sup>**

Product name	1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
	planned	produced	planned	produced	planned	produced	planned	produced	planned	produced
Cotton	28900	26952	500	586	636	037	2075	100	357	316
Wool	910	622	3802	1210	5113	9013	1025	5269	2521	2381
Silk	2990	2080	1507	9744	66	7498	1010	2103	0455	0443
Garments	24500	29709	074	42	500	7	1830	1	439	754
Rubber shoes	21100	20012	300	351	650	545	1480	279	430	216

The analysis of the table data reveals that during the war years, the availability of essential goods, such as cotton fabric, expensive garments, knitwear, soap, tobacco products, kerosene, and others, significantly decreased. This decline was accompanied by an increase in the share of haberdashery, perfumes, and other non-essential goods.<sup>51</sup> Industrial goods imported into the republic did little to meet the needs of buyers. Expensive toys, poor-quality expensive sewing products, certain types of knitwear, haberdashery, and other goods were not in demand in stores. From 1942 to 1945, the majority of imported cotton fabrics were coarse cotton. Woolen fabrics included cheap, coarse cloth, tights, cheviot, and similar items. Notably, during these years, there was a lack of imports for porcelain and earthenware dishes, window glass, various iron and aluminum utensils, working tools, and popular types of haberdashery.<sup>52</sup>

The successful implementation of the plan to provide the population with industrial goods depended on specific organizations such as Tekstilsbyt (cotton, wool, silk, threads), Legsbyt (sewing goods and knitwear), the Dagogni plant (glass), and Glavparfumer (laundry soap and toilet soap).

In 1945, the ORS units that exceeded the annual retail turnover plan included those of Dvigatelstroy, Dagneft, Neftebaza, and the Dagogni plant.<sup>53</sup>

A significant portion of industrial and agricultural products received by the country's population during this period came through Lend-Lease. Mainly, industrial goods were sent to Dagestan and distributed to families of military personnel in dire need, war veterans and their families, especially to those who had lost family members in the Great Patriotic War. Children under patronage and care were also beneficiaries of these distributions. The distribution of gifts from allied countries was overseen by the commission of the CPC of the DASSR, and the chairmen of the executive committees of district and city Councils

50. Annual report on the economic activities of the PCT of the DASSR for 1945. CSA RD. F. r-491. Inv. 8. File 231. L. 5.

51. Market review of the work of republican trading organizations for 1940-1946. CSA RD. F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 254. L. 10.

52. Ibid. L. 2 rev.

53. Report on the economic activities of the PCT for 1945. CSA RD. F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 231. L. 2.

of Working People's Deputies were personally responsible for ensuring the correct use of these items for their intended purpose. In October 1944, a total of 25,318 items (*calculated by the author*) of clothing were sent to Dagestan. These American gifts were distributed among disabled people of the Great Patriotic War and labor and sent to various regions and organizations in Makhachkala, Derbent, Khasavyurt, Buinaksk, Izberg, Dvigatelstroy, and other parts of the republic.<sup>54</sup> In March 1945, an additional 31,433 wearable items arrived in Dagestan, with 17,341 for women, 10,094 for men, and 3,998 for children. These items included both new and used clothing.<sup>55</sup>

Teachers, doctors, agricultural specialists, families of military personnel, and evacuees enjoyed certain advantages in supplies, and by the end of the war, 60 million people in the country received stamps for industrial goods [4, p. 43].

An analysis of trade development indicators in Dagestan during the war reveals a rather weak trade turnover. The proximity of the front and the necessity, since 1942, to mobilize all resources to provide the army with necessary supplies, including food and part of the industrial commodity funds, contributed to this situation. In 1942, trade turnover immediately decreased by 83 million rubles, and it continued to fall until 1944.<sup>56</sup>

There was a noticeable reduction in retail trade turnover, particularly in rural areas. In 1941, retail trade turnover in rural areas amounted to 165,024 thousand rubles. However, it decreased to 110,735 thousand rubles in 1942, further dropping to 85,282 thousand rubles in 1943 and 84,843 thousand rubles in 1944.<sup>57</sup> Among the main reasons for this situation were the lack of goods from centralized funds and local industry, the unsatisfactory performance of state trading organizations, inefficient utilization of their own resources and capabilities, and transportation shortages.

The supply of food and industrial goods to the population faced challenges due to various issues such as speculation in bread, stamps, and coupons. Additionally, abuses of official positions by trade workers, local leaders of state and party bodies, and employees of the stamp bureau for personal selfish interests hindered the distribution process. In 1944, certain ORSs in Dagestan inflated their contingent numbers to obtain extra food funds, with instances such as the ORS of Dagneft claiming a contingent of 1000 people, communications for 500 people, and Yodobrom monthly for 300 people.<sup>58</sup> There were also reported cases of theft of goods arriving in Dagestan through Lend-Lease channels.<sup>59</sup>

During the war years, the DASSR authorities addressed the issue of combating embezzlement and theft in trading organizations through several resolutions. For instance, the resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the DASSR and the Bureau of the Dagestan Regional Committee of the CPSU(b) dated February 9, 1943, aimed to strengthen

54. Order of the CPC of the DASSR dated October 29, 1944. CSA RD. F.r-168. Inv. 29. File 44. L. 204.

55. Resolution of the CPC of the DASSR No. 98 c dated March 8, 1945 "On approval of the plan for the distribution of personal items, gifts received from allied countries." CSA RD. F.r-168. Inv. 35. File 27. L. 67-71.

56. Review of the work of the Ministry of Trade of the DASSR for the period 1940-1946. CSA RD. F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 254. L.1.

57. Fulfillment of the retail turnover plan from 1938 to 1944 in DASSR. CSA RD. F. r-491. Inv. 8. File 175. L. 75.

58. Report by Deputy Secretary of the Dagestan Regional Committee of the CPSU(b) for trade and public catering Gereev at a meeting of chiefs and chief accountants of ORSs on August 25, 1944. CSA RD. F. p-1. Inv. 1. File 6141. L. 39.

59. Information from the Secretary of the Dagestan Regional Committee of the CPSU(b), Comrade Agababov, about the facts of a soulless bureaucratic attitude towards meeting the needs of the families of front-line soldiers and the squandering of American gifts. CSA RD. F.p-1. Inv. 1. File 6468. L. 38.

the fight against theft and squandering of food and industrial goods. This resolution revealed shortcomings in the work of trading, marketing, and procurement organizations in Dagestan and outlined practical measures to fully implement the resolution of the USSR State Defense Committee of the same name dated January 22, 1943.

Despite continued instances of theft and squandering of goods in 1943-1944 and at the end of the war, there was a trend, albeit inconsistent, toward reducing the total number of violations in the field of trade and supply. In 1942, the total amount of identified embezzlement amounted to 311 thousand rubles<sup>60</sup>, in 1944 (excluding small cases) – 135 thousand rubles<sup>61</sup>, and in 1945 – 302 thousand rubles.<sup>62</sup>

Thus, the establishment of ORSs at industrial enterprises played a crucial role in addressing the challenges of food supply during the Great Patriotic War in Dagestan. The integration of shops, canteens, and state farms into the ORS system, operating as self-supporting entities, proved instrumental in overcoming food shortages for workers in key sectors of the Soviet economy. In the context of disrupted production relations caused by the occupation of a significant portion of the country, heightened social challenges, particularly related to food, were swiftly addressed by state authorities and labor collectives through the ORS framework. This initiative led to enhanced food offerings in canteens and more targeted customer service in stores. The stabilization of food supply for workers and their families was achieved through the establishment of small farms with their own food supply – subsidiary farms. This distinctive feature allowed for the development of additional food sources and the creation of substantial decentralized food reserves.

The success of organizing public catering establishments in Dagestan during the war years was notable when compared to the limited development of public catering enterprises in the region from 1941 to 1945. The turnover of public catering organizations experienced a marginal 1% increase during this period. In contrast, the establishment of ORSs demonstrated more promising outcomes. The number of ORSs in the republic increased significantly, growing from 24 in 1942 to 90 in 1945<sup>63</sup> [18, p. 140–141]. This expansion was accompanied by a noteworthy increase in retail trade turnover, reaching 49,600 thousand rubles in 1945, compared to 28,062 thousand rubles in 1942.<sup>64</sup>

The effectiveness of ORSs during wartime was evident, not only in the numerical growth but also in the improved and more stable supply of workers. Moreover, ORSs played a crucial role in organizing food for night shift workers, a vital aspect in the challenging conditions of war.

60. Information of the People's Commissariat of Finance of the DASSR No. 05-III dated March 22, 1943 "On the results of the work of the enterprises of the PCT of the DASSR for 1942.". CSA RD. F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 166. L. 17, 18.

61. Report on the economic activities of the PCT of the DASSR for 1945. CSA RD. F. 491. Inv. 8. File 231. L. 34.

62. Ibid.

63. Report on the economic activities of the PCT of the DASSR for 1945. CSA RD. F. r-260. Inv. 23. File 70. L. 56.

64. Results of the national economic activities of the PCT of the DASSR for 1943. CSA RD. F.1-P. Inv. 1. File 6144. L. 28; Report on the economic activities of the PCT of the DASSR for 1945. CSA RD. F.r-491. Inv. 8. File 231. L. 1.



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