

Closure of Companies in Kerala

4902. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some companies in Kerala have now closed down because of liberal imports of formic acid;

(b) is it also a fact that the country's production of formic acid is already in excess of its requirements; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government for banning the imports of formic acid?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c). The Kerala Government reported that M/s. Periyar Chemicals Limited, Kerala have closed down their plant for the manufacture of Formic Acid.

M/s. Periyar Chemicals Limited are producing Formic Acid with a licensed capacity of 1500 tonnes per annum based on tail gases available from FACT plant at the same location. This unit has been regularly producing Formic Acid to the extent of 60 per cent to 70 per cent of the installed capacity in the last three years. The details of production are given below:—

Year	Production
1979-80	935 tonnes
1980-81	1007 tonnes
1981-82	877 tonnes

The firm has also reported in their production return during the last 2 months that their production has come to standstill due to accumulation of stocks. This may be true as Formic Acid is still allowed to be imported on restricted basis as there has been so far only one unit for the manufacture of Formic Acid in the country and a total demand of 2,000 tonnes cannot perhaps be met from this unit. The

imports of Formic Acid during the last three years are as under:—

1978-79	1348 tonnes
1979-80	1085 tonnes
1981-82	N.A.

Another unit in the name of M/s. Kerala Acids and Chemicals Limited, Cochin, with a licensed capacity of 1200 tonnes per annum is likely to be commissioned during the year. The import policy could be reviewed after the second firm also goes into regular production.

Promotion of Production Assistants

4903. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI KAMLA MISHRA
MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that Production Assistants and Transmission Executives in All India Radio are working in the same Grade, that is Rs. 425—750/-;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Transmission Executives are promoted as Programme Executives through DPC after completing 6 years service in their own Cadre;

(c) is it also a fact that there is no promotion channel for production assistants in All India Radio, and persons after completing 20-25 years of service as production assistants are still working as production assistants and were never promoted as producer through D.P.C.; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard, and the reasons why the Production Assistants are not being given the Senior Grade?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the existing Recruitment Rules, 25 per cent of the posts of Programme Executive in AIR are filled by promotion from amongst Transmission