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Companies will begin projects in India soon

IPOH, Sun. - The Malaysian companies awarded a highway construction package and the privatisation of water supply and sewerage projects in India will begin work soon as the final reports are almost completed, said Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

Conglomerate Renong Berhad, which has won the contract for the construction of the RM625 million Bangalore-Mysore highway package, will begin work in September as its executive delegation had finalised the deal with the Karnataka Government.

The others are Nat-Air Sdn Bhd and Bi-Water Malaysia Sdn Bhd, the Malaysian consortium awarded the privatisation of water and sewerage systems in Bangalore and two other areas.

Samy Vellu said the companies had been directed to prepare a final study which would be forwarded to the Karnataka State Government.

Samy Vellu was speaking to newsmen after attending an Indian classical dance performance by the Sri Nandhigeswarar Dance Academy at the Town Hall last night.

He was optimistic that work could begin soon as all the companies had a good track record.

"As a result of our negotiations and frequent follow-up visits, Renong has impressed the Indian Government and it is confident of securing some RM800 million worth of projects in India," he said.

The deals were clinched following negotiations between the Minister, the Indian Government and Karnataka State Chief Minister J.H. Patel. These talks were followed by a visit by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to India recently.

Under the first deal, Renong will undertake the construction of the 120km highway and also complete a 66km ring road in Bangalore.

So far, 33km of the road has already been completed but work on the final stages was abandoned due to a lack of funds. Renong had agreed to complete the job and later collect toll.

They were also finalising the report on the privatisation plan to supply water and treat sewage for two million people in Bangalore, Whitefield and Belgaum in Karnataka State.

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