

28 OCT 1997

Samy-India

PROTON CAR PROJECT TO COME UP IN ANDRA PRADESH

By: Mahesh Prasad

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu has said that the Malaysian cabinet had decided that Proton must set its car plant in Andra Pradesh state, putting at rest speculation on the location of the proposed project in India.

Samy Vellu, who was in the Andra capital of Hyderabad yesterday, told newsmen that another team comprising high level engineers would visit the Andra town of Visakhapatnam to conduct further studies, says a report in the business daily, the Financial Express.

The Proton car company, which was examining the feasibility of setting up the project in India for some time with a possible location in Tamil Nadu had started thinking of Andra Pradesh as the location after its Chief Minister, N Chandrababu, held a meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Subsequently, two teams from Proton have already made trips to the state to study a possible location.

Promising to cooperate with the state not just in setting up road projects, but also ports, mega townships and airport projects, Dr Mahathir was quoted by the paper as saying that Andra Pradesh would soon be on par with many developed countries with the progressive ideas of Chief Minister Naidu

Samy Vellu, who has held discussions with the Indian Surface Transport Minister T.G. Venkatraman in New Delhi, said that the Indian government had proposed several expressway projects to be taken up on a government-to-government basis by the two countries with the participation of the private sector.

Two of these, totalling over 100km, are the Hyderabad-Vijayawada Highway project and Madras-Ichhapuram project in Andra Pradesh.

A team of Malaysian engineers would soon be coming to India to conduct feasibility studies for these projects, the Minister said.

He said that the Indian government's proposal on road toll charges would be attractive to the private sector. -- BERNAMA

MP SK