

25 JUN 1998

SAMY-PROJECTS

OVER RM 1 BLN WORTH OF PROJECTS AWAIT M'SIAN FIRMS IN INDIA

By: E. Sivabalan

KUALA LUMPUR, June 25 (Bernama) -- While many Malaysian companies are postponing their investments overseas due to the economic slowdown, two local companies are set to take up projects worth nearly RM1.5 billion in Karnataka, a southern state in India, said Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today.

The projects involve the supply of raw water from the Kaveri River to Bangalore worth US\$300 million (RM1.2 billion) and the construction of a RM200 million highway linking the airport in Thevanhali to Bangalore.

Speaking to reporters after holding talks with visiting Karnataka Works Minister C.M.Udasi at his office here, Samy Vellu said the Karnataka government is expected to decide on the water supply project by the end of next month.

The minister said he was confident that the project to pipe water from the Kaveri River to Bangalore covering 250km would be awarded to the Malaysian company in view of the expertise introduced by the company to the state.

On the 28km highway project, Samy Vellu said the the Karnataka government would decide on the mater soon.

"The two Malaysian companies are all geared up to start their projects," he said.

Samy Vellu said Malaysian companies were also bidding for several projects including the construction of a highway linking Bangalore and Mangalore and a the Middle Ring Road (Jalan Lingkaran Tengah) in Bangalore.

"These projects are in the pipeline of the Karnataka state government," he said.

On the inaugural meeting of the National Water Council to be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on June 29, Samy Vellu said the meeting would discuss the possibility of finding alternative sources of water. A consultant for the purpose has been engaged.

Other matters to be discussed include finding ways to solve the water shortage in the country in a pro-active manner, said Samy Vellu.

The meeting will be attended by all the Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers.

--BERNAMA

ES SHY