

20/05/1998

Study on recycling industrial waste water

Hamidah Atan

MALACCA, Tues. - The Works Ministry is studying whether industrial waste water can be recycled to cope with the increasing demand for water.

Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said officials would hold talks with several large industries on this.

"We are working with experts and I hope to get the outcome of the study by next week. The proposal will be submitted to the Cabinet."

Speaking after launching the State-level MIC Koperasi Didik Bhd last night, Samy Vellu, who is also MIC president, said if waste water was recycled, more water would be available "to boost production".

He also said the water rationing exercise in the Klang Valley would continue despite heavy rain in the past few days.

He said the Federal Government should not be blamed for water problems in several States as it wasn't notified of their water privatisation exercises.

He said Kelantan was one of the States that failed to consult the Federal Government.

"There is an understanding that the matter should be referred to the Federal Government via the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department. However, most States failed to refer the matter to us."

He was commenting on the delay in Malacca's privatisation exercise and the water-supply problem in Kelantan.

While the EPU has given its approval, the company awarded the project - Gibca Holdings Sdn Bhd - was still waiting for a green light from Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin.

Samy Vellu said the State Government must ensure that the privatisation benefited the company and people.

"However, many State Governments are not prepared to discuss the matter with us for reasons best known to them.

"Even Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been constantly reminding the States that it must be a privatisation exercise wholly, not just a component of the project."

Samy Vellu added that the terms set by State Governments for privatisation were sometimes "unacceptable".

"As far as I am concerned, the States have their own priority and we cannot force them to do anything.

"We will, however, continue to work with them for the benefit of the people," he said.

(END)