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24 SMIs suffer losses due to water problem

Kamarul Yunus; Sreerema Banoo

TWENTY-four companies in the Klang Valley reported losses amounting to RM4.15 million due to water supply disruptions in March and April, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said yesterday.

Rafidah said she submitted the list of companies, all small- and medium-sized industries, to Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu at the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters in Kuala Lumpur after the opening of the SMI Showcase '98 and Apec Cross Border Linkages by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, she said the ministry has not received any more complaints from companies.

"Right now, the water shortage problem has been ameliorated ... we are not getting any more complaints. The state Government, particularly in the Klang Valley, has come up with the necessary measures (to address the problem)," she said.

She said the list also included the estimated losses of the companies as a result of the disruption in water supply.

Complaints by the companies, she added eased when the state Government and the water supply department stepped in to take the necessary measures.

"They (the companies) know we are doing our best. Earlier, when they saw there was not much movement in terms of response, they were very upset.

"They now understand that apart from our own efforts to make sure they get water during times of inadequacy, the fact that the weather has changed for the better is also another positive trend," she said, adding that the ministry will continue to monitor the situation.

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