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Waterworks to probe staff role in siphoning by factory

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu has ordered the Selangor Waterworks Department to check whether its officers were involved in a case of a factory which was alleged to have siphoned water.

He also ordered the department to check whether other factories were involved.

"The department should check to determine how the factories get their water supply and how much they pay," he said after the opening of the Sungai Buloh overhead bridge restaurant by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today.

He said this when asked to comment on the alleged water theft by a company, Sun Metal Works Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Wembley Industries Holding Bhd, at Jalan Gambus off Jalan Bukit Kemuning in Klang.

The company involved in metal works and production of boilers is to be charged soon under section 38 of the Water Supply Act 1997 which carries a maximum fine of RM50,000 or two years' jail or both.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar was quoted yesterday as saying that he wanted the department to recover payment estimated at RM500,000 from the company.

Samy Vellu hoped to get a full report from the department on Monday. He had also asked the department for a report on the water level in the dams.

"It appears the water level in the dams has not shown any increase despite the rain in the Klang Valley over the past few days."

He added that his Ministry would work closely with the State Governments to locate new water sources to prevent a recurrence of the water shortage in Kuala Lumpur and its surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, Abu Hassan who was also present at the ceremony was asked on a Bahasa Malaysia newspaper report today that logging and development projects were taking place in four water catchment areas in Selangor.

He said the State Government would carry out an investigation. It was reported that the activities were carried out around Batu Dam, Sungai Langat Dam, Semenyih Dam, Klang Gate Dam and Ampang intake plant.

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