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Discussions on project to channel water from Pahang to Selangor

IPOH, Sun. - The National Water Council will hold talks with the Economic Planning Unit on the project to channel water from Pahang to Selangor after the EPU has completed a report on it, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said.

Discussions will centre on the resources, availability and co-operation between the State Governments as water supply falls under the respective States' jurisdiction.

Speaking to reporters after opening the Thaveethin Kudaram church at First Garden last night, Samy Vellu said the NWC had recently held a meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, on the country's water shortage problem.

He said one of the issues discussed was the project to channel water from Pahang to Selangor as one of the long-term measures by the NWC to avert a water crisis, such as the one which hit the Klang Valley in early 1998.

Samy Vellu said negotiations were still being carried out between the EPU and a private consortium. The private consortium is expected to manage, treat and supply the water from Pahang.

The RM1.7 billion project, fully funded by the Federal Government with loans from the Japan Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, will include the construction of a 37.5km tunnel from Telemong, near Bentong in Pahang, to rivers in Selangor.

When completed the project, which is expected to begin some time this year, will allow more than a billion litres of water to be piped into Selangor from Pahang daily.

The tunnel, which will run under the Main Range, will also allow the diversion of water into Selangor rivers before being channelled into the Klang Valley, Ulu Langat and Semenyih dams.

The project is expected to take between four and five years to complete.

Apart from the tunnel, the project also includes the construction of dams at Sungai Telemong and Sungai Kelau, both tributaries of Sungai Semantan in Bentong.

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