

22/03/2001

Govt spent RM2m to repair border fence

Kamarul Yunus

THE Government spent about RM2 million to repair border fences between Kedah/Perlis and Thailand in the last three years, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung said the Government spent RM1.8 million to repair the fences in Kedah and RM550,000 in Perlis during the period.

Replying to a question by Dr Abu Bakar Othman (Pas-Jerlun), he said the amount spent had been increasing since 1998.

For instance, he said, the Government spent RM100,000 in 1998 to repair the fences in Perlis and this increased to RM130,000 in 1999 and RM320,000 last year.

In Kedah, the Government spent RM210,000 in 1998 and this increased to RM604,000 and RM956,000 in 1999 and 2000 respectively.

* TABUNG Haji has never negotiated, offered nor even proposed to buy shares in Malaysian Airline System Bhd (MAS), Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Senator Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin said.

In his written reply to a question by Mohd Yusoff Mohd Nor (Pas-Macang), he said it was not true that Tabung Haji had bought shares in the national air carrier.

"Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) had also made a press statement that Tabung Haji had not bought nor planned to buy MAS shares," he said.

Tabung Haji had previously acquired MAS shares, but these were all sold in 1989.

Bernama reports:

* MORE tourists from Singapore and other countries are visiting Malaysia during the Mega Sales Carnival.

An increasing number of visitors from Thailand, Indonesia, China, India as well as Japan came to Malaysia during the carnival, Deputy Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said.

Replying to Chang See Ten (BN-Gelang Patah), she said 1.04 million tourists visited Malaysia during the last carnival from December 2 to January 2, compared with 796,899 previously.

* ASEAN countries should speak with one voice at the international level and avoid taking action that can undermine any member country, a government backbencher said.

Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (BN-Bagan Datok) said unity and cooperation among Asean members are vital when tackling global issues.

"If an Asean country like Malaysia wants to sit on any international body, there should not be any attempt by other Asean members to sabotage such efforts," he said when debating the motion of thanks for the royal address.

(END)