

23 FEB 2001

Samy-loan

MIC SEEKS BIGGER HOUSING LOANS FOR ESTATE WORKERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- The MIC has asked the government to increase the quantum of loans given to displaced estate workers so as to enable them to purchase houses priced between RM35,000 and RM42,000.

Its President, Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu said the quantum of RM7,500, given out now under the poor people's housing scheme, was not sufficient and that the amount should be raised to RM20,000. The funds are channelled by the Housing and Local Government Ministry.

He added that the matter was raised at the weekly Cabinet meeting last week and Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has directed the minister concerned, Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, to study the matter and submit a report to the Cabinet.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the party's monthly Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting at the MIC Headquarters here today, Samy said he had also asked for low-interest loans to be provided for estate workers.

He also said CWC also discussed, at length, on the housing woes faced by estate and plantation workers whose employers had failed to fulfill promises to provide them with houses after redeveloping the estates.

Samy said the MIC has resolved housing problems for 4,500 workers in 50 estates and plantations in Selangor and was now focusing on the remaining 10 estates in the state.

The estates are Ladang Kapar Baru, Ladang Bukit Beruntung, Ladang Kalumpang, Ladang Banting, Ladang Bukit Hitam, Ladang Midlands, Ladang Bremer, Ladang Sungai Rinching, Ladang Kajang and Ladang Bangi.

He also said estate owners failed to keep their promise to build single-storey terrace house at RM25,000 each for these displaced workers.

Samy Velly said he would submit to the Cabinet a list of displaced workers who have struggled and suffered for years in the estates and yet did not own a house.

Besides houses, he said, estate owners who had pledged to build schools, temples and other amenities 20 years ago, have yet to honour their promise.

On other matters, he said, the MIC will conduct special tutorial classes for students in Remove form, Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia and Sijil Peperiksaan Tinggi Malaysia by bringing in experts to help these students achieve excellence in their studies.

-- BERNAMA

DC ZS DVS