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RM6b water project to be ready in 2006

P. Chandra Sagar

IPOH, Sat. - Selangor will have adequate water supply for 20 years when the RM5.7 billion water project in Pahang is completed in 2006, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

"The present supply can last until 2007 and the new project will ensure a continuous supply for domestic and industrial needs," he said.

The project would involve the construction of a 37-km tunnel to channel water from Sungai Telemung in Bentong, a dam, water treatment plants and other related works.

The treated water will serve Gombak, Semenyih and Hulu Langat.

Samy Vellu was speaking after launching a Tamil movie, Kathal KisuKisu (Love Gossip), with Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali at Manjoi today.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi had approved a soft loan for the project at a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Tokyo recently.

Samy Vellu said the loan was also to finance other projects.

He did not disclose the loan amount given.

Samy Vellu said the Government would only build one big dam due to opposition by certain quarters. Originally, it planned to build two in Pahang.

Soil tests and other relevant reports had been completed by experts appointed by the Malaysian and Japanese Governments, he said.

Under the project's first phase, 1,500 million litres of water a day will be diverted from Pahang to Selangor and the amount will be raised to 2,260 million litres under the second phase.