

28/12/2002

MIC wants schools rebuilt

Tan Yi Kai

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The MIC has suggested to the Government that 186 Tamil schools nationwide in poor condition be rebuilt over the next 10 years.

Its president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the schools, mostly in estates or on private land, no longer provided a conducive environment for learning.

He said a request had been made to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for an annual budget of RM20 million to rebuild 18 or 19 schools a year.

He also said 66 Tamil schools had been set up since 1986, 13 more are due to be completed in the next three months while construction has begun on four others.

Smaller existing schools will be given more facilities.

Samy Vellu was speaking to reporters after opening SJK (T) Batu Caves here today.

The RM3.6 million school, set up in 1997, is the first Tamil smart school. It has a three-storey building and a complete computer lab for its students.

Asked about objections within the Indian community to rebuilding schools, he said a group had misunderstood the matter as it was the Government's intention to limit the nationwide total of Tamil schools to 186 by closing down existing schools.

He said the group's actions were "irresponsible" as they undermined current efforts through proper channels.

Samy Vellu also launched a new entrance arch to the Sri Subramaniam Temple today.