

MIC wants at least eight more seats

STAR 25 JUL 2003

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SUNGAIPETANI: MIC will request for two new parliamentary and between six and eight state seats to contest in the next general election, its president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said.

“We have identified the seats which we can win comfortably,” he said.

This is the first public statement by Samy Vellu over the request for additional seats for his party following the creation of 25 new parliamentary and 65 state seats under the recent redelineation exercise.

He said the party had already worked out the number of new state seats where there were

between 25% and 31% Indian voters.

“In most parliamentary seats, Indians form between 15% and 18% of the electorate. We have worked out everything and it is all ready,” he told reporters after a briefing here on the construction of the Asian Institute of Medicine, Science & Technology (AIMST) in Semeling, near here, yesterday.

Earlier, the party’s 41-member Central Working Committee was given a 30-minute briefing on the progress of construction of the MIC-owned AIMST before they held their meeting here.

On whether he had discussions with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir for additional seats, Samy Vellu said:

“We have not come to the stage yet. We get all our bullets ready and then we will present our case at the right time.”

Samy Vellu said the party was already geared for the election and could mobilise its machinery, which included the Youth, Puteri and Wanita wings, within 24 hours.

On potential MIC candidates for the next general election, he said in jest: “We have thousands of them. We do not have enough places for them.”

He said the MIC did not encounter problems of potential candidates lobbying for seats.

Samy Vellu also chided other Indian-based political parties that claimed to have huge memberships but did not have records or membership lists to prove their claims.