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MIC to provide help and guidance to Tamil school pupils taking UPSR

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The MIC will provide special assistance and guidance, including additional tuition classes, to 711 Tamil school pupils who will be sitting for their Ujian Penilaian Sekolah Rendah exams this year, party president Datuk Seri Samy Vellu said today.

He said last year, 202 Tamil school students scored 7As, up from 165 students in 2001.

"We will meet soon with about 100 Tamil school teachers and headmasters to compile sample exam questions for the students and also discuss other ways how they can do better," he said after meeting the Tamil Schools Action Committee at the MIC headquarters here, yesterday.

He said the States would also conduct a series of intensive workshops and seminars.

Of the 7As scorers last year, he said more than half were girls and came from 113 Tamil schools in eight States.

He said that the party would try to forge closer links with Tamil school Parent-Teacher Associations to work together and improve the quality of Tamil school education.

"We will have four zonal meetings with these PTAs and also Tamil school co-ordinators."

The meetings have been scheduled to be held in Sungai Petani, Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur and Malacca.

He also said the party had submitted a working paper to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to seek an annual RM20 million allocation for the upgrading of several Tamil schools for the next 10 years.

To date, he said the party had identified 18 Tamil schools in need of urgent repair.