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MIC to ask for more seats in next general election

SUNGAI PETANI, Thurs. - MIC wants two additional parliamentary seats and between six and eight more State Assembly seats in the next general election, party president Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu said today.

He said the party had already made an in-depth study of the matter and had identified constituencies where its candidates would have a good chance of securing comfortable victories.

"The study was conducted nationwide and involves seats in constituencies where Indians are either the majority or constitute between 25 and 31 per cent of the voter population," he said after leading a party Central Working Committee delegation to inspect progress at the Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology (AIMST) project site at Semeling, near here.

MIC currently has seven parliamentary seats and 15 State seats nationwide.

The request to have a bigger allocation of parliamentary seats for Indian candidates was among the resolutions of the 57th MIC general assembly held on May 11.

Parliament recently approved an additional 25 new parliamentary constituencies and 63 State Assembly constituencies following the election boundary redelineation exercise.

Samy Vellu said he had not informed Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of the request.

"We will state our stand on the matter when we have the bullets (facts) and when the time comes," he said.

On AIMST, Samy Vellu said construction was progressing and was scheduled to be completed by May next year.