

**Malaysian Government Studying Sri Lanka, Sime Darby's Plantations Worker Requests  
Bernama**

**July 21, 2016**

**From R. Ravichandran**

COLOMBO, (Sri Lanka) July 21 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Government will study the Sri Lankan government and Sime Darby's requests to send 5,000 workers from the South Asian country to work in the Malaysian company's plantations.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi noted that Sime Darby was facing shortage of workers and had submitted its request to Sri Lanka's Foreign Employment Ministry through the Malaysian High Commission in Sri Lanka.

"We are looking into it.. maybe we will bring it up at the Special Cabinet Committee on Foreign Workers.

"I emphasised that if the Cabinet approved, there must be a training centre in Sri Lanka, maintained by a Malaysian company, to familiarise them (workers) with Malaysia's social background and prevent them from culture shock," he said.

Ahmad Zahid was speaking to Malaysian media here. He arrived here today for a two-day working visit.

Earlier, Ahmad Zahid who is also Home Minister held a meeting with his Sri Lanka counterpart Vajira Abeywardena and Minister of Foreign Employment Thalatha Atukorale at their respective offices.

According to him, there are currently 6,500 Sri Lankan workers in Malaysia, whose employment are restricted to certain sectors approved by the government.

Of the number, 3,800 are in the manufacturing sector, 1100 (housemaids), and 900 (service sector).

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2016 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1265252>