

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**Reply Serial No.**

**DEVB(PL)087**

**Question Serial No.**

0585

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) According to the records of the Buildings Department, how many single-staircase buildings are there in Hong Kong? After the clearance of illegal rooftop structures (IRSs) of the remaining 280 single-staircase buildings in 2009, how many single-staircase buildings with IRSs are expected to remain? Is it common that unauthorised building works will be reconstructed after the removal operation?
- (b) Regarding the removal of IRSs in single-staircase buildings, what measures will be taken by the Administration to enhance the effectiveness of the operation? Will additional resources be provided in this respect?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) Since 2001, the Buildings Department (BD) has been embarking on a clearance operation to remove IRSs on single-staircase buildings in Hong Kong. About 5 500 single-staircase buildings have been identified with IRSs. Up to the end of December 2008, IRSs in 5 200 buildings were cleared and IRSs in about 280 buildings are scheduled to be removed in 2009. To stop the erection of new unauthorised building works (UBWs), the BD has commissioned private consultants to investigate into UBWs under construction. The consultant teams will carry out inspections within 48 hours upon receipt of reports on UBWs under construction from the public. Last year, the BD took enforcement action against re-erection of minor UBWs in 63 single-staircase buildings.
- (b) The BD will continue to take enforcement action against the remaining 280 single-staircase buildings identified with IRSs in 2009. The BD does not require additional resources for handling these remaining cases.

Signature

Name in block letters

AU Choi-kai

Post Title

Director of Buildings

Date

16 March 2009