

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Bureau will continue the large scale operation (LSO) on comprehensive clearance of unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes of target buildings in 2012-13. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) What are the specific details of the said LSO and the resources involved?
- (b) According to some members of the public, the penalty of imposing an encumbrance on the properties with UBWs not removed within the period specified in a warning notice is ineffective because it does not affect the owners of the UBWs concerned in letting out their properties for profit. As such, what measures will be adopted by the Department to tackle the situation?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply:

- (a) As one of the initiatives in the new package of measures to enhance building safety, the Buildings Department (BD) has revised its enforcement policy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) since April 2011 by expanding the scope of the actionable UBWs to include those UBWs located on rooftops, flat roofs or in yards and lanes of private buildings, irrespective of their risk to public safety and whether they are newly erected. To dovetail our enforcement action against such UBWs, a large scale operation (LSO) to remove these types of UBWs in 500 target buildings per year has been launched since April 2011 and will be continued in 2012-13. The existing resources for 488 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division will be responsible for carrying out the abovementioned operation. As this operation is

