Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)286

Question Serial No.

3626

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:

With increasing public concern about unauthorised building works, there is a rising number of such reports to the Buildings Department from members of the public. In this connection, the Administration has indicated the need to respond efficiently to reports from members of the public. Has assessment been made on the manpower required? Will additional manpower be engaged to handle the rising number of reports, so as to avert delayed investigation or follow-up action due to manpower shortage? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The handling of reports on unauthorised building works (UBWs), including investigation and follow-up action, is carried out by 530 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of the Buildings Department (BD) as part of their overall duties to implement the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are thus not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower involved solely for handling reports on UBWs.

The existing professional and technical manpower will continue to be deployed for handling reports on UBWs in 2013-14. We will closely monitor the work progress of handling reports on UBWs and the adequacy of existing resources.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

Date: 9.4.2013