

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)098

(Question Serial No. 2545)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (AU Choi-kai)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 51):

Will the Administration advise this Committee:

- (1) of the respective expenditure and manpower of the Buildings Department (BD) allocated to implement the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme, Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme, Validation Scheme for Unauthorised Signboards and minor works registration system in the past three years, and of their breakdowns by expenses item and staff duty;
- (2) in view of the labour dispute in the BD last year, of the earmarked expenditure for enhancing the staffing provision and benefits of the BD in the next three years?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

- (1) The implementation of the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme, Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme, Validation Scheme for Unauthorised Signboards and Minor Works Control System is carried out by the existing resources of 531 professional and technical staff of the Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Minor Works and Signboard Control Section of the Buildings Department (BD) as part of their overall duties to implement the Department's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower or expenditure involved for the implementation of each of the above schemes or system.

The registration of minor works contractors is carried out by the existing resources of 20 professional and technical staff of the Registration Unit of BD as part of their overall duties to manage the registration system for all registered building professionals and registered contractors. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower or expenditure involved solely for the registration of minor works contractors.

- (2) In 2014-15, BD will enhance various initiatives with additional resources, including building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes, services in the approval of building plans and related applications for private development projects, and the Joint Office to tackle reports on water seepage through a “one-stop” approach. The total provision of about \$1.176 billion for BD in 2014-15 is higher than the revised estimate for BD in 2013-14 by about \$66 million. In 2014-15, BD will create 215 civil service posts, including those converted from existing non-civil service contract positions, representing an increase of about 16% from the establishment ceiling of 2013-14.