

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)110

(Question Serial No. 0378)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (AU Choi-kai)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 2):

Regarding outsourced work:

- 1) what was the expenditure of the Buildings Department (BD) for outsourcing contracts last year including consultancy work; what was the total number of all outsourced workers involved; how many types of contracts were there;
- 2) what will be the expenditure of the BD for outsourcing contracts in the coming year including consultancy work; what will be the total number of all outsourced workers involved; how many types of contracts will there be; what is the percentage of increase or decrease as compared with last year; what percentage of the Department's total expenditure does it represent; and
- 3) what is the staffing provision for monitoring the implementation of contracts?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

- 1) In 2013-14, the Buildings Department (BD) has engaged various outsourced services with an estimated total expenditure of about \$92 million. The outsourced services can broadly be categorised into (a) general services: including security, office cleansing, maintenance of engineering systems and equipment, public education and publicity, social service, etc.; and (b) studies and consultancy services: including studies for formulating requirements on building safety, health and environmental standards, and consultancy services relating to the enforcement of the Buildings Ordinance and the allied regulations. As there are no specifications on the number of workers to be employed under some of the contracts, we are not able to provide statistics on the total number of workers employed by the service providers.

- 2) In 2014-15, the BD is going to engage outsourced services with an estimated expenditure of about \$111 million (i.e. 21% increase as compared with 2013-14), which accounts for about 9% of the total estimated expenditure of the BD. The types of outsourced services will be similar to those for 2013-14. As there will be no specifications on the number of workers to be employed under some of the contracts in the coming year, we are not able to provide the total number of outsourced workers to be employed by the service providers.

- 3) For the service contracts on security, office cleansing and maintenance of engineering systems and equipment, three staff in the Departmental Administration Section are responsible for monitoring the implementation of contracts of the services concerned. For the other service contracts, the Contract Management Unit, comprising four professional staff and three technical staff, is responsible for compiling tenders, providing contract advice and co-ordinating performance reports. The professional and technical staff in various Divisions of the BD are responsible for monitoring and administering these service contracts, which is part of their overall duties on setting and enforcing safety, health and environmental standards for private buildings. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the resources allocated solely for contract management.