

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)130

(Question Serial No. 1579)

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. 16):

Under this Programme, regarding the implementation of the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme and the Mandatory Buildings Inspection Scheme, please advise this Committee:

- 1) of the number of backlog cases relating to the large number of buildings targeted in 2013 but not yet served with inspection notices;
- 2) of the details of work and timetable, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2014; and
- 3) given the acute shortage of manpower in the Buildings Department, of the measures to be taken by the Administration to clear the backlog.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- 1) The numbers of buildings targeted for prescribed building inspection under the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and prescribed window inspection under the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) in 2013 but not yet served with statutory notices are about 1 200 and 3 500 respectively.
- 2) & 3) In 2014, taking into account backlog cases and buildings to be newly selected, the Buildings Department (BD) plans to issue statutory notices to about 1 800 target buildings for implementation of the MBIS and the MWIS concurrently and another 1 500 target buildings for implementation of the MWIS only. It is estimated that 21 000 and 175 000 statutory notices under the MBIS and the MWIS will be issued in 2014 respectively. The implementation of the MBIS and the MWIS is carried out by the existing resources of 493 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of BD as part of their overall duties to implement the Department's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. In 2014-15, 193 new non-directorate civil service posts, including those converted from existing non-civil service contract

positions, will be assigned for enhancing various building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes including the MBIS and the MWIS. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower or expenditure involved solely with the implementation of the two schemes. Apart from the provision of manpower resources, BD will continue to streamline operational procedures to improve efficiency and re-prioritise its work with a view to clearing the backlog as soon as possible.