

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)322**

**(Question Serial No. 5803)**

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

Question (Member Question No. 354):

1. The Buildings Department will commence a consultancy study on the latest technological methods in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings. What are the particulars of the work, including details such as work schedules, the estimated consultancy fee and the scope of the study?
2. By what percentage does the Department expect the successful rate of identifying the sources of water seepage to rise as a result of the findings of this study?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Water seepage in private premises is primarily a matter of building management and maintenance for property owners. However, if the problem of water seepage causes public health nuisance, a risk to the structural safety of a building or wastage of water, the Government will consider intervening by exercising the relevant statutory powers. To facilitate action, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department have established the Joint Office (JO) since 2006 to co-ordinate investigation of reports on water seepage and taking of enforcement actions. Having regard to the continuous demand for JO's service, the operation of JO will be made permanent in 2014-15. Our reply to the questions is set out below.

- (1) In 2014-15, JO will commence a consultancy study on the latest technological methods for identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings. The study aims to keep abreast with the latest technological development in the field of water seepage investigation that is already available in the market. The consultancy fee is estimated to be about \$3.0 million. The study is expected to commence in the third quarter of 2014-15 and will take about 18 months to complete.
- (2) As the consultancy study has not yet commenced, we are not able to assess the degree of enhancement of JO's capability in handling reports on water seepage cases at this stage.