

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 4831)

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. 235):

Has the Government conducted any large scale inspection on sub-divided flats (SDFs) (commonly known as “sub-divided cubicles”) over the past five years? If yes, what were the number of inspections and the results? Please list the respective numbers of unauthorised SDFs (including those connected with “reports from members of the public attended to”, “warning notices issued”, “removal orders issued”, “prosecutions against failure to comply with removal orders” and “unauthorised structures removed and irregularities rectified”).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) has been conducting large scale operations (LSOs) on rectification of irregularities of building works associated with sub-divided flats (SDFs) since 2011. LSOs on SDFs for the past three years covered a total of 785 target buildings, including 60 industrial buildings. Up to February 2014, 697 target buildings have been inspected, with 3 918 SDFs identified. As follow-up, 1 474 removal or discontinuation orders have been issued, with 415 orders already complied with.

Apart from conducting LSOs on SDFs, BD also investigates reports on SDFs from members of the public and other government departments. In the past five years, BD has attended to about 21 900 reports on SDFs and issued 349 removal orders against irregularities of building works associated with the reported SDFs. A total of 99 removal orders have been complied with.

In the past five years, 250 prosecutions have been instigated against failure to comply with the removal orders issued in relation to SDFs.