

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 5467)

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. 66):

Regarding the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme, it is anticipated that the increasing trend in the number of loan applications processed and approved will continue in the coming year, and the total amount of loans committed will thereby increase. According to the Administration, it is related to the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS). In this connection, will the Administration advise this Committee:

1. of the number of applications related to the MBIS and the MWIS among the loan applications processed;
2. of the average loan amount of the applications approved; and
3. as it is anticipated that the increasing trend in the number of applications will continue, whether the Administration has considered increasing its manpower to cope with the additional workload in order to speed up the implementation of the MBIS and the MWIS; if yes, of the details of the additional manpower; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

1. The Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme, administered by the Buildings Department (BD), accepts applications from owners of private buildings for carrying out building repair or improvement works, which may be carried out voluntarily or for compliance with statutory orders or notices. The loan applicant is not required to state whether the works are to be carried out voluntarily or subject to a statutory order or notice in the loan application form. Therefore, BD has no information on whether the loan application is related to MBIS and MWIS.
2. The average amount of loan approved in 2013 was about \$66,000 per application.

3. The processing of loan applications in 2014-15 will continue to be handled by the existing manpower of the Building Safety Loan Scheme (BSLS) Unit of BD. As the existing manpower of BSLs Unit should be able to cope with the expected increase in demand, no additional manpower will be deployed to the Unit for the work in 2014-15.