

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 5149)

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. 54):

The Buildings Department plans to continue the large scale operation on comprehensive clearance of unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes of target buildings in 2014-15. In this connection, will the Administration advise this Committee:

- (1) of the number of such UBWs removed in each of the past three years and the annual expenditure involved;
- (2) of the estimated total number of such UBWs in the territory at present; and
- (3) of the work plan in 2014-15 and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

1. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, 1 317, 1 810 and 2 190 removal orders issued against unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes had been complied with respectively. The Buildings Department (BD) does not keep separate statistics on the number of different types of UBWs removed as a result.

The enforcement action against UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes is carried out by the existing resources of 576 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Minor Works and Signboard Control Section of BD as part of their overall duties to implement BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the resources involved solely for the enforcement action against UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes.

2. According to the stock taking exercise conducted in 2011 and 2012 to record all UBWs erected on the exterior of private buildings, there were about 46 500 UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes in the territory.

3. BD will continue to take enforcement action against UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes through large scale operations so as to carry out the enforcement action in a systematic and efficient manner. In addition, more prosecutions would be instigated against failure to comply with the removal orders. As the enforcement action against this type of UBWs will continue to be part of the overall duties of the professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Minor Works and Signboard Control Section of BD, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the resources involved solely for the task.