

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****DEVB(PL)340****(Question Serial No. 5150)**

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. 55):

The Buildings Department plans to continue the large scale operation on inspection of sub-divided flats in target buildings and rectification of irregularities of building works associated with sub-divided flats in 2014-15. In this connection, will the Administration advise this Committee:

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

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

- (1) 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. The numbers of removal or discontinuation orders issued under LSOs and numbers of removal or discontinuation orders complied with in the past three years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of removal/discontinuation orders issued under LSOs</b>	<b>No. of removal/discontinuation orders complied with*</b>
2011	99	12
2012	1 000	82
2013	374	217
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 473</b>	<b>311</b>

Note:

- \* The removal/discontinuation orders complied with in a particular year may not be orders issued in the same year.

LSOs on SDFs in the past three year were carried out by the existing resources of 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 BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are unable to provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved solely for LSOs on SDFs in the past three years.

- (2) As BD has not conducted any territory-wide survey on SDFs, we are not able to provide an assessment on the number of SDFs requiring rectification of irregularities in Hong Kong.
- (3) With the resources redeployed from LSO for inspection of dilapidated buildings for issue of repair and investigation orders since 2013 and the additional resources of eight professional and technical staff deployed in 2014 to enhance the inspection in industrial buildings to identify SDFs for domestic use therein, the target for LSO on SDFs in 2014 has been adjusted to 330 target buildings per year. However, as the additional resources will be deployed from 1 October 2014, the planned target for 2014 is 308 target buildings, which comprise 270 domestic or composite buildings, and 38 industrial buildings. As LSO on SDFs in 2014 will continue to be part of the overall duties of the professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of BD, we are unable to provide a breakdown of the manpower involved solely for the operation in 2014.