

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)345**

**(Question Serial No. 5615)**

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. 90):

Regarding speeding up the rehabilitation of old buildings as stated under the programme, please advise this Committee whether the financial and technical assistance provided to building owners by the Department, Hong Kong Housing Society and Urban Renewal Authority include evaluation of the rehabilitation costs, which can help prevent “bid-rigging” arising from the owners’ lack of expertise and sufficient information; if yes, of the details of the relevant plan and expenditure involved; if not, of the Government’s measures to prevent “bid-rigging” in the rehabilitation works of buildings.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme (the Scheme), administered by the Buildings Department (BD), aims to provide financial assistance to owners of private buildings for carrying out repair or improvement works to their buildings or private slopes. Approval of loans depends on whether the proposed works fall within the scope of the Scheme and does not involve the evaluation of the rehabilitation costs.

For the Integrated Building Maintenance Assistance Scheme (IBMAS), which is administered jointly by the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), building consultants will be arranged by HKHS and URA to conduct site inspections and advise the owners or owners’ corporation (OC) about the estimated cost for the Common Area Repair Works Subsidy and the Common Area Interest-free Loan under IBMAS. To further provide technical assistance and cost advice, HKHS and URA will conduct briefings or attend the meetings of the owners or OC to enable them to have more information about the requirements of the works and the procedures of the tendering as follow-up measures.