

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)057

(Question Serial No. 1684)

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:

The authorities failed to meet several performance targets regarding new buildings in 2014, including “processing building plans within 60 days for new submissions”, “processing building plans within 30 days for re-submissions” and “processing within 28 days applications for consent to commence building works”. What were the reasons for failing to meet the targets, how many residential units were involved in the delay in processing, and what are the respective reasons for setting the expected percentages of 2015 below the targets? Moreover, have the authorities considered allocating additional resources or formulating other plans for achieving the original performance targets; if not, what are the reasons, if yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

To facilitate applicants in obtaining approval of building plans, if an application can be approved subject to minor amendments or further particulars to be furnished, the Buildings Department (BD) allows the authorized person (AP) and registered structural engineer (RSE) to make such amendments or furnish the required particulars instead of rejecting the application. For the purpose of computing the processing time, before 1 November 2013, these cases were taken to be approved within the target time frame, regardless of the time taken by the AP and RSE to make such necessary amendments or furnish such required particulars. From 1 November 2013 onwards, such time incurred on the part of the AP and RSE has been taken into account in computing the processing time. As a result, due to the different methodology in computing the processing time of building plans before and after 1 November 2013, there are more cases the processing of which cannot meet the targets after 1 November 2013. Therefore, the actual performance in 2013 and 2014 as well as the planned targets in 2015 in processing building plans and consent to commence building works of less than 100% only reflect the revised methodology of computing the processing time. The progress of construction works of new development will not be affected by the change in the methodology of computing the processing time.

To strengthen services in the approval of plans and related applications for private development projects, four new posts comprising one Building Surveyor, one Structural Engineer, one Survey Officer (Building) and one Technical Officer (Structural) will be created in the New Buildings Divisions of BD. Furthermore, BD has commenced a benchmarking exercise jointly with the industry on plan submission quality with a view to facilitating their preparation of plans for approval.

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