CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2636)

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:

Regarding "continue the consultancy study on the latest technological methods in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings" stated under the Programme, what are the expenditures and manpower involved, what is the progress, when is the study expected to complete? What are the staff establishment by rank and the total expenditures of the Buildings Department (BD) in the past three years in connection with the work of investigating sources of water seepage at present? Has the BD adopted any new technologies in recent years to improve the success rate of investigation, if so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) has engaged a consultant to study the latest technological methods for identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings. The study commenced in October 2014 and is expected to be completed in 18 months, with an estimated expenditure of $4.5 million. The Joint Office (JO) set up together with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to handle reports on water seepage is responsible for the work relating to planning and monitoring of the study. The work is absorbed by the existing resources of the JO as part of the overall duties in handling reports on water seepage, and hence we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and the staff costs involved solely with the work.

The staff establishment and expenditures of BD for the operation of JO in the past three years are tabulated below –

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Number of professional and technical staff	64	64	64
Staff costs and departmental expenses ($ million)	21	23	28 (1) (estimated)

Expenditures for engaging outsourced consultants ($ million)	23	24	26 (estimated)

Note [(1)] : Increase due to conversion of 17 non-civil service contract positions to civil service posts is included.

BD keeps abreast of the latest technologies with a view to exploring more effective investigation methods in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings. In recent years, the JO has already employed new equipment such as infrared camera and microwave tomography scanning device on a trial basis to facilitate identification of the sources of water seepage in complicated cases.

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