

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)067

(Question Serial No. 0308)

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 stated that the processing of 18 034 reporting forms received under the Reporting Scheme (hereinafter “the Scheme”) for Unauthorised Building Works (UBWs) in New Territories Exempted Houses that constitute less serious contravention of the law and pose lower potential risks to building safety was completed. In this connection, will the authorities inform this Committee:

- (1) of the numbers of reporting forms received under the Scheme, the numbers of audit checks on the current situation of the reported locations, and the numbers of applications rejected by the authorities requiring removal of the UBWs in each of the past three years;
- (2) given that owners are required to conduct inspections of the UBWs reported and the parent structures concerned every five years under the Scheme, the first batch of owners who have joined the Scheme may be required to conduct the second five-yearly inspection next year; in this connection, whether the authorities have any plan to carry out publicity work in this financial year; if so, what are the plan and estimated expenditure involved; what is the staff establishment in the Department for such task? Is there any plan to recruit additional staff to support the implementation of the Scheme?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

- (1) Under the Reporting Scheme (the Scheme) for Unauthorised Building Works (UBWs) in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs), the Buildings Department (BD) received a total of around 18 000 reporting forms. The BD has conducted audit checks on some 1 700 reporting forms, and rejected some 5 600 reporting forms. The UBWs involved in the rejected cases are subject to enforcement action as in the case of other unreported UBWs.

(2) For the accepted reporting forms, the owners concerned are required to arrange qualified personnel to conduct safety inspection of the reported UBWs every five years. The BD will issue letters to the owners concerned prior to the commencement of the second five-year cycle to remind them of the requirements on safety inspection and verification of safety of the UBWs. This task will be carried out by the 37 professional and technical staff in the Village Houses Section of the BD, as part of their overall duties in implementing the enhanced enforcement strategy against UBWs in NTEHs. There is no plan to increase the number of staff in this Section, and we are unable to provide a breakdown of the staff establishment and expenditure to be incurred solely for this task.

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