

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0584)

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 they would continue the large scale operation on comprehensive clearance of unauthorised building works on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes of target buildings. In this connection, will the authorities advise this Committee:

- a) of the number of cases in the backlog of outstanding removal orders, and of the categories into which they fall;
- b) whether there is any plan to increase manpower and resources to speed up the work of clearing backlog of outstanding removal orders to cope with the workload this year; if so, of the increase in the number of staff and of the expenditure involved; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

- a) As at end 2015, there were about 64 000 outstanding removal orders issued against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in the whole territory. The Buildings Department (BD) does not compile statistics on the number of different types of UBWs involved in the removal orders.
- b) Enforcement action against UBWs, including clearance of outstanding removal orders, is carried out by the 630 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Minor Works and Signboard Control Section of the BD as part of their overall duties to implement the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes. A total of 36 professional and technical posts will be created in 2016-17 to assist in the implementation of the above-mentioned programmes. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the additional manpower involved solely in the clearance of outstanding removal orders.

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