

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)279**

**(Question Serial No. 4181)**

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:

In the past two years, the authorities did not fully meet the targets set for processing building plans within the time specified and processing within 28 days applications for consent to commence building works. Again, the targets are only set at 90% this year. Will the authorities inform this Committee of the reasons for not meeting the targets, the improvement measures to be taken to meet the targets and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 96)

Reply:

The cases where the said targets were not met mainly involved situations where the Buildings Department (BD) had already finished vetting the building plan/consent to commence building works applications, and considered that such applications could be approved subject to minor amendments or further particulars to be furnished by the applicants. In such cases, the BD would allow the applicants to make the minor amendments or furnish the required particulars after the stipulated target date for processing the applications. This is a practice well-accepted by the industry for streamlining the processing of applications, and is preferred to the alternative of rejecting the applications before the stipulated target date which would cost the BD and the applicants extra time and efforts to restart the entire vetting process.

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