

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)099

(Question Serial No. 0657)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (CHEUNG Tin-cheung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The number of posts in the Buildings Department will be increased by 55 posts in this financial year. What is the expenditure involved for such staff establishment? What measures will be taken to step up enforcement actions in industrial buildings? And if inspections will be strengthened, what will be the number of inspections in comparison with the past?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 50)

Reply:

The notional annual mid-point salary value of the 55 posts to be created in the Buildings Department (BD) in 2017-18 is \$31,207,410.

Among building irregularities in industrial buildings (IBs), the BD is particularly concerned about the significant safety risk associated with illegal domestic use. In this regard, apart from responding to reports on illegal domestic premises (including sub-divided flats) in IBs, the BD will step up enforcement actions to eradicate such premises in an orderly and systematic manner through large scale operations (LSOs). Once such premises are identified, the BD will issue removal orders and discontinuation orders against the owners. In case of non-compliance with the orders, the BD will institute prosecution against the owner concerned, as well as consider applying to the court for a closure order to close down the premises and arrange for government contractors to carry out the necessary rectification works. In 2017, the BD will mount LSOs on 20 IBs for taking enforcement action against illegal domestic premises. Inspections of premises are carried out by BD staff as part of their daily duties and no statistics on their specific number is kept.

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