

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)091

(Question Serial No. 1454)

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:

Regarding the handling of loan application for fire safety improvement works of the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme:

1. what is the amount of fund earmarked for the Loan Scheme this year, and the expected number of buildings eligible for application to be completed or accepted?
2. what is the total number of loan applications approved since the establishment of the Loan Scheme, and the number of buildings involved and their geographical distribution? How many of them are old buildings of six storeys or less?
3. whether there are any rejected loan applications since the establishment of the Loan Scheme; if so, what is the amount of fund involved, and the reasons for rejection?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 20)

Reply:

1. Administered and vetted by the Buildings Department (BD), the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme (the Scheme) provides loans to individual owners of private buildings who wish to obtain financial assistance in carrying out maintenance and repair works to reinstate or improve the safety conditions of their buildings and/or private slopes, including fire safety improvement works. The Scheme is a revolving loan scheme with a commitment of \$700 million. Up to end of December 2017, the amount of loan fund available for application under the Scheme was about \$200 million. BD has not made any estimation of the number of buildings eligible for application under the Scheme.

2. As at 31 December 2017, a total of 30 180 applications involving 5 512 buildings were approved under the Scheme since its establishment. The geographical distribution of these buildings is tabulated below –

District	Number of buildings
Central & Western	698
Eastern	625
Islands	11
Kowloon City	587
Kwai Tsing	173
Kwun Tong	277
North	26
Sai Kung	24
Shatin	130
Sham Shui Po	465
Southern	96
Tai Po	93
Tsuen Wan	220
Tuen Mun	121
Wan Chai	526
Wong Tai Sin	184
Yau Tsim Mong	1 049
Yuen Long	207
Total	5 512

BD does not compile separate statistics on the number of storeys of these buildings.

3. As at the end of December 2017, a total of 926 loan applications were rejected. The major reasons for the rejections were that the applicants did not provide the required information or the application did not meet the eligibility criteria.

BD does not compile statistics on the amount of loan involved in the rejected applications.

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