

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 3471)

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 authorities stated that they would continue the large scale operations 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:

- of the number of outstanding removal orders and of the categories into which they fall;
- whether there is any target for removal in order to reduce the backlog cases; if not, what are the reasons?
- whether there is any plan to increase manpower and resources to speed up the work of clearing backlog cases of outstanding removal orders. If so, of the increase in the number of staff and of the expenditure involved; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 102)

Reply:

As at end 2017, there were about 55 000 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 outstanding removal orders.

BD has set up targets for clearing outstanding removal orders and posted the progress of meeting such targets in BD's website.

BD has implemented improvement measures to speed up the clearance of outstanding removal orders such as upgrading its Building Condition Information System to enhance monitoring on the progress of enforcement action, streamlining its operation procedures, and re-adjusting its work priorities as appropriate. In addition, BD has been allocated additional resources in the past years to cope with various operational needs, including clearance of outstanding removal orders. The task of clearing outstanding removal orders is carried out by the existing manpower resources of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Minor Works and Signboard Control Section of BD as part of their overall duties to implement BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes. They comprise a total of 633, 638 and 693 professional and technical staff members in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (estimate) respectively. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower resources involved solely for clearing outstanding removal orders.

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