

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0076)

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:

It is mentioned that the government will “build community resilience and enhance government preparedness for landslide disasters”. Would the Department inform this Committee :

1. What are the numbers of inspection of private slopes and repair notices issued each year?
2. What is the cumulative number of outstanding Dangerous Hillside Orders so far in the territory? Are there any measures to expedite the process? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. What is the number of cases where the Buildings Department carries out the required works in default of owners and recovers the administrative costs and repair costs from them afterwards? What are the costs involved and the progress of cost recovery?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 46)

Reply:

1. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Buildings Department (BD) issued 106, 85 and 40 dangerous hillside orders (DHOs) respectively. BD has not compiled statistics on the number of inspections of private slopes.
2. As at 28 February 2018, a total of 616 DHOs have yet to be complied with. BD has been taking proactive action to encourage and assist the owners to comply with the DHOs. In particular, BD will continue to explain to owners the risks associated with dangerous slopes and the procedures in complying with DHOs. BD will, in collaboration with the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department and District Offices of the Home Affairs Department, offer advice on geotechnical matters and assistance in coordination among multiple owners for complying with the orders. Eligible owners may also apply for financial assistance under the current grant or loan schemes administered by BD and the Urban Renewal

Authority. For owners who fail to comply with DHOs without reasonable excuse, BD may initiate prosecution against them. Moreover, BD will also consider engaging its consultants and contractors to carry out the required slope investigation and repair works in default of the owners, and recover the costs of such works plus supervision charge and surcharge from the owners afterwards. Since 2016, BD has stepped up the default actions against outstanding DHOs by streamlining the procedures for procuring default works consultants.

3. As at 28 February 2018, BD has engaged consultants/contractors to carry out the slope investigation and repair works for 209 DHOs in default of the owners. In the financial year of 2017-18 (up to December 2017), BD paid \$12.6 million to consultants/contractors for carrying out default works and recovered \$8.3 million from default owners.

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