

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)123****(Question Serial No. 1355)**

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:

Building Safety Loan Scheme provides loans to individual owners of private buildings who may 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. Regarding the loan scheme, what were the numbers of applications received, the total amount of financial assistance involved, the numbers of buildings benefited, the duration between submission of application and release of loan in general, the numbers of applications rejected, and the general reasons for rejection in each of the past three years?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

In the past three years, the number of applications received, the number of applications approved, the total amount of financial assistance approved and the number of buildings benefited under the Building Safety Loan Scheme are tabulated as follows –

| Year | Number of applications received | Number of applications approved^{Note} | Total amount of financial assistance approved^{Note} (\$million) | Number of buildings benefited^{Note} |
|-------------|--|---|---|---|
| 2016 | 998 | 1 016 | 71.1 | 266 |
| 2017 | 725 | 578 | 41.3 | 223 |
| 2018 | 514 | 460 | 38 | 201 |

Note: Figures do not necessarily correspond to the applications received in the same year.

Approved loans will be released to the applicants based on the progress of works and submission of corresponding certification. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, the average duration between submission of application and release of loan were about eight months, ten months and seven months respectively.

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, the numbers of applications rejected were eight, 29 and 121 respectively. The major reason for rejecting applications was that the applicants did not provide the required information. In 2018, the Buildings Department took the initiative to clear backlog cases where applicants had failed to provide information in support of their applications for an extended period of time, which explains the higher number of rejected applications in 2018.

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