

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)287

(Question Serial No. 4636)

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 implementation of Operation Building Bright 2.0 in collaboration with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), would the authorities inform this Committee:

- a) of the estimated number of units, manpower and resources involved;
- b) of the division of work between the Bureau and URA.

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 121)

Reply:

To protect public safety, the Government earmarked \$3 billion to launch Operation Building Bright 2.0 (OBB 2.0) to provide technical and financial assistance to eligible building owners to carry out prescribed inspection and repair works under the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS).

There are two categories of buildings under OBB 2.0. Category 1 buildings are those whose owners are prepared to take up the organisation of the inspection and repair works for their buildings under MBIS. Category 2 buildings cover those which have outstanding MBIS notices but the owners concerned have difficulties in coordinating the inspection and repair works (e.g. the so-called "3-nil" buildings, which are buildings that do not have an owners' corporation or an owners' committee, or have not engaged any property management company). The Buildings Department (BD) proactively selects Category 2 buildings on a risk basis and exercises its statutory power to carry out the requisite inspection and repair works in default of owners, and seeks to recover the cost from owners concerned afterwards. Eligible owners of Category 2 buildings may claim subsidies under OBB 2.0 to cover all or part of such cost.

The Government expects the funding under OBB 2.0 would be able to support the commissioning of inspection and repair works of 2 500 buildings (under both Categories 1 and 2) over the five-year period beginning 2018-19. Both BD and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) have not made any estimation on the total number of units involved under OBB 2.0.

As the Government's partner in implementing OBB 2.0, URA is responsible for administering the scheme. URA bears the associated costs of staffing, office accommodation and outsourced independent consultancy service fees from its own resources.

The work performed by BD under OBB 2.0 is to be carried out by 160 professional and technical staff of the Mandatory Building Inspection Sections of BD as part of their overall duties. BD is unable to provide a breakdown of the expenditure and manpower incurred solely for this task.

The Buildings Unit of the Development Bureau (DEVB) oversees the implementation of OBB 2.0 as part of its overall portfolio. DEVB is unable to provide a breakdown of the manpower resources deployed solely for this initiative.

- End -