

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)238

(Question Serial No. 3511)

Head: (82) Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (YU Tak-cheung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Government stated that they would continue the large scale operations on comprehensive clearance of unauthorised building works on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes in target buildings. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- the number of outstanding removal orders and 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, the increase in the number of staff and the expenditure involved; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 126)

Reply:

As at end 2019, there were about 49 000 outstanding removal orders issued against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in the whole territory. The Buildings Department (BD) does not compile separate statistics on the number of different types of UBWs involved in the outstanding removal orders.

BD has set targets for clearing outstanding removal orders and posted the progress of meeting such targets in BD's website at https://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/about-us/e_AddPTable24.pdf.

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 of the progress of enforcement action, streamlining its operation procedures, redeployment of resources and re-adjusting its work priorities as appropriate. In addition, BD has been allocated additional resources in the past years to cope with various operation 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 693, 695 and 748 professional and technical staff members in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 (estimate) respectively. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower resources involved solely for clearing outstanding removal orders.

- End -