

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)118

(Question Serial No. 2417)

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:

With regard to the problem of sub-divided flats (SDFs) being used for domestic purpose in industrial buildings (IBs), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the number of premises (including SDFs) inspected, number of discontinuation orders issued, number of prosecutions instigated against non-compliance with discontinuation orders, number of premises for which closure orders were applied from the court, and number of premises for which government contractors were arranged to carry out the necessary rectification works in 2020?
- (b) Apart from responding to reports, will the Buildings Department carry out large scale operations against illegal domestic use in IBs in 2021? If so, what is the target number of IBs? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

- (a) Statistics on the numbers of industrial building (IB) premises (including sub-divided flats (SDFs)) inspected, discontinuation orders issued, prosecutions instigated against non-compliance with discontinuation orders, premises where closure orders were applied from the court and premises where government contractors were arranged to carry out the necessary rectification works in 2020 are tabulated below –

	2020
Number of IB premises inspected	301
Number of discontinuation orders issued ⁽¹⁾	5
Number of prosecutions instigated against non-compliance with discontinuation orders ⁽²⁾	1
Number of premises with irregularities for which closure orders were applied from the court	0
Number of premises for which government contractors were arranged to carry out the necessary rectification works	0

Note ⁽¹⁾: The figure does not necessarily correspond to the IB premises inspected in the same year.

Note ⁽²⁾: The figure does not correspond to the discontinuation order issued in the same year.

- (b) Apart from responding to reports, the Buildings Department has been taking enforcement actions against illegal domestic use in IBs in an orderly and systematic manner through large scale operations (LSOs) since April 2012. Such enforcement actions against illegal domestic use in IBs may involve SDFs. In 2021, 20 IBs will be targeted for LSOs against illegal domestic use in IBs.

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