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EMB050	1397	CHAN Yuen-han Cyd	177	1
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EMB063	0304	YEUNG Yiu-chung	40	4
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EMB065	0306	YEUNG Yiu-chung	40	1
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EMB130	1248	LEUNG Yiu-chung	40	3
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LD				
EMB149	0061	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	1
EMB150	0062	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	1
EMB151	0063	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	1
EMB152	0064	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	1
EMB153	0076	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	1
EMB154	0119	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	2
EMB155	0141	YEUNG Yiu-chung	90	1
EMB156	0142	YEUNG Yiu-chung	90	1
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EMB164	0249	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	2
EMB165	0250	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	2
EMB166	0274	CHAN, Bernard	90	1
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EMB168	0281	TAM Yiu-chung	90	2
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EMB170	0313	YEUNG Yiu-chung	90	2
EMB171	0314	YEUNG Yiu-chung	90	2
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EMB173	0423	LI Fung-ying	90	2
EMB174	0425	LI Fung-ying	90	3
EMB175	0468	LI Ka-cheung, Eric	90	2
EMB176	0585	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	3
EMB177	0586	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	3
EMB178	0587	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	3
EMB179	0627	CHAN Kam-lam	90	2
EMB180	0628	CHAN Kam-lam	90	2
EMB181	0688	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	4
EMB182	0689	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	4
EMB183	0690	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	4
EMB184	0691	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	4
EMB185	0796	WU King-cheong, Henry	90	3
EMB186	0797	WU King-cheong, Henry	90	2
EMB187	0798	WU King-cheong, Henry	90	2
EMB188	0863	LEE Cheuk-yan	90	1
EMB189	0864	LEE Cheuk-yan	90	1
EMB190	0865	LEE Cheuk-yan	90	1
EMB191	0866	LEE Cheuk-yan	90	1
EMB192	0867	LEE Cheuk-yan	90	1
EMB193	0868	LEE Cheuk-yan	90	2
EMB194	0869	LEE Cheuk-yan	90	4
EMB195	0877	CHAN Kwok-keung	90	2
EMB196	0878	CHAN Kwok-keung	90	1
EMB197	0879	CHAN Kwok-keung	90	1
EMB198	0880	CHAN Kwok-keung	90	NA
EMB199	0975	LEUNG Yiu-chung	90	4
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EMB202	0987	CHU Yu-lin, David	90	1
EMB203	0988	CHU Yu-lin, David	90	1
EMB204	0989	CHU Yu-lin, David	90	2
EMB205	0990	CHU Yu-lin, David	90	2
EMB206	0991	CHU Yu-lin, David	90	2
EMB207	0992	CHU Yu-lin, David	90	4
EMB208	1195	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	3
EMB209	1196	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	3
EMB210	1197	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	3
EMB211	1198	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	3
EMB212	1199	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	90	3
EMB213	1296	HO Chun-yan, Albert	90	4
EMB214	1297	HO Chun-yan, Albert	90	4
EMB215	1298	HO Chun-yan, Albert	90	4
EMB216	1299	LAW Chi-kwong	90	2
EMB217	1300	CHAN Yuen-han	90	2
EMB218	1301	CHAN Yuen-han	90	2
EMB219	1302	CHAN Yuen-han	90	2
EMB220	1303	CHAN Yuen-han	90	NA
EMB221	1304	LAW Chi-kwong	90	2
EMB222	1305	LAU Chin-shek	90	3
EMB223	1306	LAU Chin-shek	90	3
EMB224	1307	LAU Chin-shek	90	4
EMB225	1308	LAU Chin-shek	90	4
EMB226	1309	LAU Chin-shek	90	4
EMB227	1310	LAU Chin-shek	90	4
SFAA				
EMB228	0318	YEUNG Yiu-chung	173	NA
EMB229	0319	YEUNG Yiu-chung	173	NA
EMB230	0669	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	173	NA
EMB231	1383	TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper	173	NA
EMB232	1384	TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper	173	NA
EMB233	1385	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	173	NA
UGC				
EMB234	0040	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	190	NA
EMB235	0041	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	190	NA
EMB236	0042	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	190	NA
EMB237	0113	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	190	NA
EMB239	0399	YEUNG Yiu-chung	190	NA

Bureau Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
EMB240	0668	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	190	NA
EMB241	0929	SZETO Wah	190	NA
EMB243	0979	LEUNG Yiu-chung	190	NA
EMB244	1205	TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper	190	NA
EMB245	1206	TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper	190	NA
EMB246	1207	LI Wah-ming, Fred	190	NA
EMB247	1469	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	190	NA
RTHK				
EMB248	0421	CHOY So-yuk	160	3
EMB249	0661	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	160	3
EMB250	1474	CHAN Kwok-keung	160	3

Bureau Serial No.

EMB001

Question Serial No.

0058

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : (a) Although the unemployment rate has gone down considerably from its peak, it still stands at a high level. Also, there has not been any significant improvement in the underemployment rate since 1999, reflecting that there are still problems to be addressed. So why is there only a 1.2% estimated growth in the expenditure on employment for the Education and Manpower Bureau?

(b) Under Programme (1), it is indicated that the increase in provision for the coming year is mainly due to the allocation of \$1.23 million on the publicity programme against age discrimination in employment. What are the details and timetable of the publicity programme?

(c) Under Programme (1), it is mentioned that the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme will be further expanded in the forthcoming year. What is the estimated increase in the number of places in the forthcoming year? And what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : The Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : (a) In 2001-02, apart from the \$43.8 million (which represents an increase of 1.2% over 2000-01) for the Employment Programme under the expenditure head of the Education and Manpower Bureau (Head 146), additional funding has been provided under other heads which contribute to the employment initiatives. These include :-

- (i) \$117.35 million will be allocated to the Employment Service Programme under the expenditure head of the Labour Department (Head 90) for implementing the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and the Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged; and
- (ii) \$400 million will be allocated to a new subhead created under the expenditure head of Subvention : Non-Departmental Public Bodies (Head 177) for the provision of recurrent funding for the Employees Retraining Board.

In addition, we plan to seek the Finance Committee's approval to create a capital commitment for \$400 million to implement a Skills Upgrading Programme to upgrade the skills of the elementary workers and the unemployed as announced by the Chief Executive in his Policy Address in 2000.

- (b) The provision of \$1.23 million is to enable the Administration to continue the publicity programme against age discrimination in employment in 2001-02. The proposed programme includes the production of a series of three short TV (promotional films) on different aspects of the issue and the production of CD-Rom for general distribution. We also propose to put up advertisements on buses and trams during the peak months of employment around summer. We aim to complete the above publicity programme before the end of 2001.
- (c) The Government has earmarked \$110 million to continue and further expand the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme in 2001/02. The Programme will provide training to over 13,000 young people, but the actual number of trainees will depend on demand.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB002

Question Serial No.

0059

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure of \$6,282,000 under Subhead 299 Expenses for improved occupational safety and health standards. As more legislation on occupational safety and health are expected to be passed in the coming year, why is there a decrease in the estimated expenditure on this item in 2000/01?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : Subhead 299 was created in 1998-99 financial year after the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (OSHO) in 1997. The provision under the subhead is mainly used to improve the working environment in the public and subvented sectors in order to comply with the requisite standards under the OSHO, including the provision of relevant training for staff. As provision is in the form of a lump sum, there is no breakdown yet into staff training and purchase of equipment. We will allocate the funds after applications have been received from Government departments and subvented organisations in mid-2001.

The marginal reduction of \$46,000 in the provision for 2001-02 mainly reflects deflation in the past year. Also a significant amount of equipment relating to occupational safety and health, and necessary training for relevant staff have already been provided to Government departments and subvented

organisations under this subhead during the last three financial years. It is expected that the need for new equipment for occupational safety and health will be reduced in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 003

Question Serial No.

0060

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat
Education and Manpower Bureau

Subhead : 111 Hire of services and
professional fees

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What are the costs of the consultancy studies, professional services and publicity programmes on employment issues under Subhead 111? Please provide a breakdown of the expenditure.

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : The provision for employment related items under Subhead 111 amounts to \$1,023,000, of which \$500,000 is for conducting a survey on the terms of employment of personal care workers in homes for the elderly relating to the Supplementary Labour Scheme; \$250,000 to support the functions of the Hong Kong APEC Study Centre; \$200,000 for carrying out an opinion survey on age discrimination in employment; \$73,000 for contracting out the distribution of the monthly Employment and Training Guide.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 004

Question Serial No.

0104

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat : Subhead : 700 General other
Education and Manpower Bureau non-recurrent

Programme : All programmes

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The estimated expenditure under Subhead 700 for 2001-02 is \$98,755,000. What are the distribution of resources among the items?

Asked by : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply : A breakdown of the estimated expenditure on commitments expected to be discharged under Subhead 700 during 2001-02 is appended below-

<u>Item</u>	<u>Ambit</u>	<u>Estimate 2001-02</u>
010	Consultancy on Language Benchmarking for teachers	1,000,000
018	Consultancy to develop performance measures for quality education	1,675,000
019	Enhanced research support for the Education Commission	3,000,000
020	Management services relating to the implementation of the reform of the Education Department	4,000,000
025	Grant to the Federation for Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions to support its development and evaluation of the bridging programmes under Project Springboard	500,000
026	IT Assistant Course	19,380,000
027	Project Springboard and Web-site on Continuing Education	67,970,000
029	Publicity programme against age discrimination in employment	1,230,000
Total		98,755,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 005

Question Serial No.

0105

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead : 700 General other
Education and Manpower Bureau non-recurrent

Programme : All programmes

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The amount of revised estimated expenditure (\$37,730,000) under Subhead 700 for 2000-01 as shown on page 389 is less than that (\$47,616,000) shown on page 387. What are the reasons? What are the expenditure items involved?

Asked by : The Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply : For the 2000-01 revised estimate, the subhead analysis page (i.e. page 387) shows the revised estimates of all capital items under Subhead 700 General non-recurrent in 2000-01, irrespective of whether individual capital items will continue to incur expenditure in 2001-02. On the other hand, the commitments page (i.e. page 389) only includes capital items which will incur expenditure in 2001-02, together with the revised estimates for these items. Hence, the figure for the 2000-01 revised estimate shown in the subhead analysis page is larger than (and in any event will not be smaller than) that in the commitments page.

There is a difference of \$9,886,000 [\$47,616,000 minus \$37,730,000] under Subhead 700 on the two pages concerned as five capital commitment items are not expected to incur further expenditure in 2001-02. Details of the capital items involved are as follows -

Item	Ambit	Revised estimate 2000-01	Remarks
015	Consultancy for the review of the Prince Philip Dental Hospital	\$930,000	Project completed.
021	Youth Pre-employment Training Programme	\$564,000	Project taken over by Labour Department and charged under Head 90.
022	Publicity campaign on age discrimination in recruitment	\$992,000	This phase of the project completed. Further publicity programme in 2001-02 to be funded under a separate capital item.
023	Surveys on employers and employees to assess the implications of China's entry into the WTO on the local labour market	\$2,800,000	Completed.
024	Validation exercises and institutional review of Hong Kong Shue Yan College	\$4,600,000	Funds disbursed to Shue Yan College in 2000-01.
	Total	\$9,886,000	

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB006

Question Serial No.

0215

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme: (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : It is proposed in the Estimates that \$43.8 m be allocated to the programme area of employment, same as the revised amount for last year. As the focus of the 2000 Policy Address was on employment and helping the needy, and a series of employment-related training initiatives e.g. the "Youth Pre-employment Training Programme", the "Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged", "Recurrent subvention to the Employees Retraining Board", etc. were proposed, will the Administration advise whether the provision allocated to this programme area is sufficient for the implementation of these new initiatives?

Asked by : The Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : Funding for the new employment-related initiatives will be provided under the expenditure head of Labour Department (\$117.35 million under the Employment Service Programme of Head 90) for implementing the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and the Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged, and a new subhead under the expenditure head of Subvention: Non-Departmental Public Bodies (\$400 million for the Employees Retraining Board under Subhead 537 of Head 177) for the provision of a recurrent funding for the Employees Retraining Board.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 007

Question Serial No.

0233

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme: (1) Employment

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Education & Manpower

Policy Secretary: Secretary for Education & Manpower

- Question: (a) What is the estimated expenditure allocated to retraining courses, including the YPT Programme and the programme to help the long-term unemployed who are 40 or above to return to work? How effective are these programmes? (Please provide the data on the number of participants in these programmes and the number of people who finally found jobs.)
- (b) The result of the programme to help the long-term unemployed who are 40 or above to return to work (under which employers will receive training grant from the Government) is satisfactory, Will funds be made available to expand the programme, say to cover the long-term unemployed below the age of 40?

Asked by: Hon. Mak Kwok Fung

Reply:

- (a) The allocations for the Employees Retraining Board, the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and the Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-Aged in 2001-02 are set out below –

Employees Retraining Board

The Government will provide recurrent subvention of \$400 million to the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) in 2001-02. The ERB provides close to 100 000 retraining places in 2000-01, of which over 45 000 are full-time places. Up to end July 2000, 9 236 out of 12 123 retrainees (or 76%) taking full-time placement-tied courses had succeeded in finding a job within 3 months upon completion of retraining.

Youth pre-employment Training Programme

The Government has earmarked \$110 million to implement the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme in 2001-02.

The 2000-01 Youth Pre-employment Training Programme was launched in two phases in October 2000 and January 2001 respectively. According to the results of a survey conducted in early March 2001, 44% of 6 915 young people who have completed training under the first phase have already secured employment, while another 36% have decided to pursue further studies. The rest are either seeking a job or have yet to decide what to do.

Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged

The Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged aims at serving 2 000 participants with a budget of \$9.8 million, 75% of which or \$7.35 million has been earmarked for 2001-02.

The programme was launched on 1 February 2001. The initial response to the Programme was very encouraging. As at 12 March 2001, the Labour Department received 899 enquiries from employers and 1 624 enquiries from prospective participants.

- (b) The Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-Aged will be reviewed upon its completion in early 2002. We will consider whether to continue the Programme in the light of the review results.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 008

Question Serial No.

0278

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead : 700 General other non-recurrent
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question : (a) Regarding the IT Assistant Training, how many training places were provided in 2000-01? What is the estimated expenditure for 2001-02? How many training places will be provided?
- (b) What is the progress of the Project Springboard and the Web-site on Continuing Education? What are the estimated expenditures in 2001-02? What are the key areas of work in 2001-02?
- (c) The estimated expenditure is only \$1.23 million for the publicity programme against age discrimination in employment. What are the details of the programme?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) A total of 900 training places were provided in the financial year 2000-01. The estimated expenditure for 2001-02 is \$19.38 million and 1 400 training places will be provided.
- (b) Project Springboard
- Project Springboard was launched in August 2000. More than 4 000 students registered in its full-time and part-time programmes. The programmes have entered into the second term and from the results of the first term assessment, students in general are making good progress.

In late December 2000, the Administration announced that the full Project Springboard certificate will be accepted as meeting the entry requirements for Government jobs requiring 5 HKCEE passes (including Chinese and English). We recently wrote to major chambers of commerce and large employers to introduce them to Project Springboard and to encourage them to follow Government's example.

\$68 million has been earmarked for Project Springboard in 2001-02, the bulk (about \$60 million) of which will be used for reimbursing 30% of tuition fees to students who satisfactorily complete the courses. The balance will be used to fund a variety of student support programmes, such as the development of a joint registration system, publicity programmes and the development of self-learning packages and online programmes.

The key areas of work in the coming year include (i) the second phase of the quality assurance process designed to improve the curricula, teaching and learning materials, and to harmonize the standards of participating institutions; (ii) evaluation of the outcomes of the first year intake of students; (iii) improving the curriculum and course delivery; and (iv) introducing Project Springboard to more employers.

Website on Continuing Education

The homepage on continuing education was launched in August 2000. It provides information on continuing education courses available in Hong Kong. This homepage is linked to a number of other homepages which are related to continuing education, so as to offer a one-stop service to those who wish to pursue continuing learning.

In 2001-02, the estimated expenditure is \$0.3 million and we will continue to provide an updated information database for lifelong learners.

- (c) The provision of \$1.23 million is to enable the Administration to continue the publicity programme against age discrimination in employment in 2001-02. The proposed programme includes production of a series of three short TV promotional films on different aspects of the issue and the production of CD-ROM for general distribution. We also propose to put up advertisements on buses and trams during the peak months of employment around summer.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB009

Question Serial No.

0279

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead : 299
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Expenditure under Subhead 299 Expenses for improved occupational safety and health standards in 2000-01 is already 8% less than that in 1999-2000. Why is there a further decrease in the estimates expenditure in 2001-02? What is the training capacity on occupational safety in 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Subhead 299 was created in 1998-99 financial year after the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (OSHO) in 1997. The provision under the subhead is mainly used to improve the working environment in the public and subvented sectors in order to comply with the requisite standards under the OSHO, including the provision of relevant training for staff.

The marginal reduction of \$46,000 in the provision for 2001-02 mainly reflects deflation in the past year. A significant amount of equipment relating to occupational safety and health, and necessary training for relevant staff have already been provided to Government departments and subvented organisations under this subhead during the past three financial years. It is expected that the need for new equipment for occupational safety and health will be reduced in the coming year.

The actual number²³ of training places on occupational safety in 2001-02 is not known at this stage. It is dependent on the applications submitted by Government departments and subvented organisations which will be received in mid 2001. In 2000-01, 29.5% of the provision under this subhead (about \$1.865m) was allocated for training and education programmes, funding about 3 500 training places.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB010

Question Serial No.

0345

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
 Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (2) Education

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Under the programme of education, provision for 2001-02 will increase substantially by 48.1% over 2000-01. According to the Administration, this is mainly due to the increase in the requirement for the Project Springboard. Under Subhead 700 Item 027, Project Springboard still has a balance of over \$180 million. What are the details of the planned expenditure on the Project Springboard in 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : \$68 million has been earmarked for Project Springboard in 2001-02. About \$60 million will be used for reimbursement of tuition fees. The balance will be used to fund a variety of student support programmes such as the development of a joint registration system, publicity programmes and the development of self-learning packages and online programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB012

Question Serial No.

0763

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead
Education and Manpower Bureau :

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : There is much public opinion criticizing that the training of the Youth Pre-employment Training and the Project Springboard are not really relevant. Please provide the numbers of participants of the two schemes last year and the placement rates of the placement-tied programmes? Is there a need to review the two training programmes?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : About 13,000 trainees have enrolled in this year's Youth Pre-employment Training Programme. Separately, over 4,000 students have registered for the Project Springboard in 2000.

The objective of the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme is to enhance the employability and competitiveness of young school leavers or adult learners through the provision of pre-employment training and training on work-related practical skills.

We conduct regular reviews on the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme since its inception with a view to improving its usefulness, its relevance and its delivery. Feedback from both the users and the employers are collated. In a survey conducted in early March 2001, out of the 6 915 young people who have completed training, 44% have already

secured employment, while another 36% have decided to pursue further studies. The rest are either seeking employment or have yet to decide on the next course of action.

Project Springboard provides a bridging programme for secondary five leavers and adult learners, which is designed to combine academic learning and practical skills training. The focus is on preparing graduates for either employment or continuing education. As the programme was only launched in 2000, we do not yet have the employment statistics of the first-year intake of students.

At the end of the first year of operation, the programme will be evaluated in terms of curriculum design and student outcomes. We will conduct a comprehensive review of Project Springboard in 2002-03.

We must stress that the emphasis of the two Programmes is to add value to and help upgrade the skills of our young people or adult learners, and hence they should not be evaluated in terms of job placement rate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny LAW

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB013

Question Serial No.

0784

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (1) Employment and (2) Education

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by the departments/services under your Bureau,

(1) Was there any financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2000-01? If yes, please reply with the following details:

Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (in plan /in progress / finished)

(2) Will there be any financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2001-02? If yes, please reply with the following details:

Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (in plan /in progress / finished)

Asked by : Hon. Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

(1) The details of the consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by Education and Manpower Bureau and the departments under its purview in 2000-01 are provided below –

(a) Studies commissioned by Education and Manpower Bureau (under Head 146) –

Scope	Name of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees in 2000-01	Status (in plan / in progress / finished)
Study on the Manpower Needs of the Legal Services Sector of Hong Kong	GML Consulting Limited	\$300,000	In progress
Review of Prince Philip Dental Hospital	PriceWaterhouseCoopers Consultants HK Ltd	\$930,000	Finished
Survey on Opinions of Employers on Major Aspects of Performance of Local 1999 First Degree Graduates	MDR Technology Limited	\$225,000	In progress
Comparative Study on the Governance Arrangements of Early Childhood Education, the Professional Training Practices and the interface of Early Childhood Education with Primary Education	Hong Kong Institute of Education	\$400,000	Finished
Survey on supply and demand for domestic helpers	Mercados Solutions (Asia) Ltd	\$131,000	In progress
Consultancy review of school improvement programme	PA Consulting Group	\$621,000	Finished
Study on the employment prospects of people aged 40-49	HK Institute of Economics and Business Strategy, the University of Hong Kong	\$500,000	Finished
Survey on employers and employees to assess the implications of China's entry into the WTO on the local market	Census and Statistics Department	\$2,736,800	Finished

(b) Studies commissioned by Education Department (under Head 40) –

Scope	Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees in 2000-01	Status of consultancy studies (in plan / in progress / finished)
Study on Promoting Parent Education	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	\$500,000	In progress
Consultancy Study on Effectiveness of Graduate Teachers in Public Primary Schools	The Hong Kong Institute of Education	\$1,000,000	Being finalised
Evaluation Study on the Implementation of the Medium of Instruction Guidance in Secondary Schools (S1 – S3)	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	\$1,070,000	In progress
Consultancy study to review the progress and achievements of the use of information technology in school education (Phase I – stage I)	The Centre for Information Technology in School and Teacher Education, University of Hong Kong	\$500,000	In progress
A study on the multiplicity of handicap among students of special schools, practical schools and skills opportunity schools	The Hong Kong Institute of Education	\$1,660,000	In progress

(c) Studies commissioned by other departments/agencies under Education and Manpower Bureau (under Head 173 SFAA, Head 177 NDPB, Head 190 UGC) –

Commissioned by	Scope	Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees in 2000-01	Status of consultancy studies (in plan / in progress / finished)
University Grants Committee	A Comparative Study of Tuition Reviews in the World	Professor Zhuang Minxuan of HKU	\$75,000	Finished

Commissioned by	Scope	Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees in 2000-01	Status of consultancy studies (in plan / in progress / finished)
University Grants Committee	A Documentary Study of Arrangements for Credit Accumulation and Transfer in Higher Education	Oxford Consulting Associates, HK	\$78,695	Finished
University Grants Committee	Review of Teaching and Learning Quality Process Reviews	Dr D.F. Westerheijden of University of Twente, the Netherlands	\$23,559	Finished
University Grants Committee	A Literature Survey on Voucher for Higher Education	Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies, the Netherlands	\$66,750	Finished
University Grants Committee	Management Review of the UGC Secretariat	PriceWaterhouseCoopers Consultants HK Ltd.	\$376,000	Finished
Student Financial Assistance Agency	Survey on student expenditure and the level of contribution from siblings to the family	MDR Technology Limited	\$960,000	Finished
Vocational Training Council	Consultancy review on trade testing	PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co.Ltd.	\$780,000	Finished
Employees Retraining Board	Users Opinion Survey	Policy 21 Ltd, the University of Hong Kong	\$368,800	In Progress, near completion

(2) Details of consultancy studies to be commissioned in 2001-02 are as follows –

(a) Studies to be commissioned by Education and Manpower Bureau (under Head 146) –

Scope	Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees in 2001-02	Status of consultancy studies (in plan / in progress / finished)
Study on the Manpower Needs of the Legal Services Sector of Hong Kong (continuation from 2000-01)	GML Consulting Limited	\$768,000	In progress
Survey on Opinions of Employers on Major Aspects of Performance of Local 1999 First Degree Graduates (continuation from 2000-01)	MDR Technology Limited	\$525,000	In progress
Survey on Opinions of Employers on Major Aspects of Performance of Local 2000 First Degree Graduates (continuation from 2000-01)	-	\$750,000	Under planning
Surveys on the terms of employment of personal care workers in homes for the elderly relating to the Supplementary Labour Scheme	-	\$500,000	Under planning
Organisational set-up for the provision of training/ retraining in Hong Kong	-	\$1,200,000	Under planning
Pilot Exercise to survey graduates of local teacher education programmes	-	\$450,000	Under planning
Opinion survey on age discrimination in employment	-	\$200,000	Under planning

(b) Studies to be commissioned by Education Department (under Head 40)–

Scope	Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees in 2001-02	Status of consultancy studies (in plan / in progress / finished)
Study on Promoting Parent Education (continuation from 2000-01)	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	\$500,000	In progress
Evaluation Study on the Implementation of the Medium of Instruction Guidance in Secondary Schools (S1 – S3) (continuation from 2000-01)	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	\$2,950,000	In progress
Evaluation Study on the Implementation of the Medium of Instruction Guidance in Secondary Schools (S4 – S5)	-	\$1,250,000	Under planning
Consultancy study to review the progress and achievements of the use of information technology in school education (Phase I – stage I) (continuation from 2000-01)	The Centre for Information Technology in School and Teacher Education, University of Hong Kong	\$800,000	In progress
Consultancy study to review the progress and achievements of the use of information technology in school education (Phase I –stage II)	-	\$3,700,000	Under planning
A study on the multiplicity of handicap among students of special schools, practical schools and skills opportunity schools (continuation from 2000-01)	The Hong Kong Institute of Education	\$76 000	In progress

(c) Studies to be commissioned by other agencies under Education and Manpower Bureau (under Head 177 NDPB) -

Commissioned by	Scope	Names of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees in 2001-02	Status of consultancy studies (in plan / in progress / finished)
Employees Retraining Board	Labour Market Analysis and Opinion Surveys	-	\$500,000	Under planning

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB014

Question Serial No.

0815

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat : Subhead : 002 Allowances
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : All programmes

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Bureau will allocate \$4,229,000 for standard allowances and overtime allowance for Chauffeur in the coming year. Please provide :

- (1) the items of the standard allowances and their respective amounts;
- (2) the number of Chauffeurs the Bureau employs, the estimated overtime hours and allowances per month.

Asked by : Hon Tommy Cheung Yu-yan

Reply : On question (1), a breakdown of the provision for standard allowances under Subhead 002 Allowances in 2001-02 is appended below-

Item	Estimate 2001-02
Overtime allowance	\$52,000
Acting allowance	\$4,077,000
Typhoon and rainstorm black warning allowance	\$4,000
Total	\$4,133,000

On question (2), there is one Chauffeur under the establishment of the Education and Manpower Bureau. For budgetary purpose, it is estimated that in 2001-02, the Chauffeur will have to perform an average of 112 hours of overtime per month. For the first 100 hours of overtime or below, the Chauffeur receives a consolidated overtime allowance of \$7,145.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Fanny Law
Post Title Secretary for Education and Manpower
Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB015

Question Serial No.

0881

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding measures against illegal employment :

- (a) what are the estimated expenditure and staffing for checking illegal employment in 2000-01 and 2001-02?
- (b) how many employers were successfully prosecuted for illegal employment in the past three years respectively?
- (c) what were the promotional programmes launched in the past three years respectively against illegal employment and the costs involved?

Asked by : The Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : (a) The Labour Department deploys 154 field labour inspectors at an annual staff cost of \$60.5 million to conduct regular inspections to workplaces to enforce labour legislation as well as to combat illegal employment. A comparable level of manpower will be mobilised in 2001 to enforce labour legislation and to deter illegal employment.

- (b)&(c) The Immigration Department is responsible for prosecution of illegal employment and related promotional activities. According to the Department's record, 428, 341 and 264 employers were successfully prosecuted 1998, 1999 and 2000 respectively. As for promotional activities, the Department advised that it had sought to enhance public awareness of the importance of combating illegal employment through various means, including publicity on enforcement actions, display of posters and distribution of leaflets, etc. However, estimates of

expenditure on promotional programmes against illegal employment are not available because such publicity activities are not separately accounted for.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB016

Question Serial No.

0882

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding the pilot project to help long-term unemployed people get back to work, how many people have received assistance so far? How many employers are willing to participate in the project?

Asked by : The Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged aims at serving 2 000 participants with a budget of \$9.8 m, 75% of which or \$7.35 m have been earmarked under Head 90 Labour Department Subhead 700 for 2001-02.

The programme was launched on 1 February 2001. The initial response to the Programme has been very encouraging. As at 12.3.2001, the Labour Department had received 899 enquiries from employers and 1 624 enquiries from prospective participants. A total of 335 eligible persons have enrolled. Training and career counselling for the first batch of participants commenced in mid-February. We will start to arrange placement for the participants after the relevant training and counselling have been completed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB017

Question Serial No.

0902

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (2) Education

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In respect of the total expenditure as well as the spending on the individual areas of pre-primary education, primary education, secondary education, teacher training, adult education, tertiary education, technical education and departmental support for the Education Department, please list out their respective percentages of the Gross Domestic Product, their proportions in the total expenditure on education, data on any increase or decrease in provision, and charts on the development trend since 1996/97.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

The expenditure on education comprises recurrent expenditure, capital expenditure under General Revenue Account (for capital non-works items), capital expenditure under Capital Works Reserve Fund (mainly for capital works projects) and Loan Fund.

As the expenditure under Capital Works Reserve Fund and Loan Fund fluctuates considerably year to year, we consider it more meaningful to base our analysis on recurrent expenditure and capital expenditure under the General Revenue Account only. The information required is as follows –

(i) Expenditure on education by areas (rounded to the nearest \$10 million)

	1996-97 (\$m)	1997-98 (\$m)	1998-99 (\$m)	1999-2000 (\$m)	2000-01 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)	2001-02 (Estimate) (\$m)
(a) Pre-primary Education	430	490	570	610	730	960
(b) Primary Education	7,040	7,670	8,700	9,530	10,470	11,680
(c) Secondary Education	11,140	12,230	13,790	14,810	15,670	17,120
(d) Special Education	910	1,040	1,200	1,310	1,430	1,530
(e) Adult Education	60	70	80	80	80	100 ⁽²⁾
(f) Departmental Support & others						
- Teacher Training	20	30	50	200 ⁽³⁾	180 ⁽³⁾	240 ⁽³⁾
- Others	1,090	1,240	1,350	1,420	1,580	1,940 ⁽⁴⁾
(g) Technical Education ₍₁₎	1,330	1,440	1,570	1,640	1,690	1,750
(h) Tertiary Education						
- Teacher Training	870	1,100	1,260	1,340	1,240 ⁽⁵⁾	1,330
- Others	11,400	11,940	13,220	13,570	13,000 ⁽⁶⁾	12,800 ⁽⁶⁾
Total (a) to (h)	34,290	37,250 ⁽⁷⁾	41,790	44,510	46,070	49,450

(ii) Year-on-year Growth in expenditure on education by areas

	1997-98 (\$m)	1998-99 (\$m)	1999-2000 (\$m)	2000-01 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)	2001-02 (Estimate) (\$m)
(a) Pre-primary Education	60 (14.0%)	80 (16.3%)	40 (7.0%)	120 (19.7%)	230 (31.5%)
(b) Primary Education	630 (8.9%)	1,030 (13.4%)	830 (9.5%)	940 (9.9%)	1,210 (11.6%)
(c) Secondary Education	1,090 (9.8%)	1,560 (12.8%)	1,020 (7.4%)	860 (5.8%)	1,450 (9.3%)
(d) Special Education	130 (14.3%)	160 (15.4%)	110 (9.2%)	120 (9.2%)	100 (7.0%)
(e) Adult Education	10 (16.7%)	10 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	20 (25.0%)
(f) Departmental Support & others					
- Teacher Training	10 (50.0%)	20 (66.7%)	150 (300.0%)	-20 (-10.0%)	60 (33.3%)
- Others	150 (13.8%)	110 (8.9%)	70 (5.2%)	160 (11.3%)	360 (22.8%)
(g) Technical Education	110 (8.3%)	130 (9.0%)	70 (4.5%)	50 (3.0%)	60 (3.6%)
(h) Tertiary Education					
- Teacher Training	230 (2.4%)	160 (14.5%)	80 (6.3%)	-100 (-7.5%)	90 (7.3%)
- Others	540 (4.7%)	1,280 (1.7%)	350 (2.6%)	-570 (-4.2%)	-200 (-1.5%)
Total (a) to (h)	2,960 (8.6%)	4,450 (12.2%)	2,720 (6.5%)	1,560 (3.5%)	3,350 (7.3%)

(iii) Share of total expenditure on education by areas

	1996-97 (%)	1997-98 (%)	1998-99 (%)	1999-2000 (%)	2000-01 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)	2001-02 (Estimate) (\$m)
(a) Pre-primary Education	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%	2.0%
(b) Primary Education	20.5%	20.6%	20.8%	21.4%	22.7%	23.6%
(c) Secondary Education	32.5%	32.8%	33.0%	33.2%	34.0%	34.6%
(d) Special Education	2.7%	2.8%	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%
(e) Adult Education	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
(f) Departmental Support & others						
- Teacher Training	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
- Others	3.2%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	3.4%	3.9%
(g) Technical Education	3.9%	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%	3.7%	3.5%
(h) Tertiary Education						
- Teacher Training	2.4%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.7%	2.7%
- Others	33.2%	32.0%	31.6%	30.5%	28.2%	25.9%
Total (a) to (h)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

(iv) Share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by educational areas

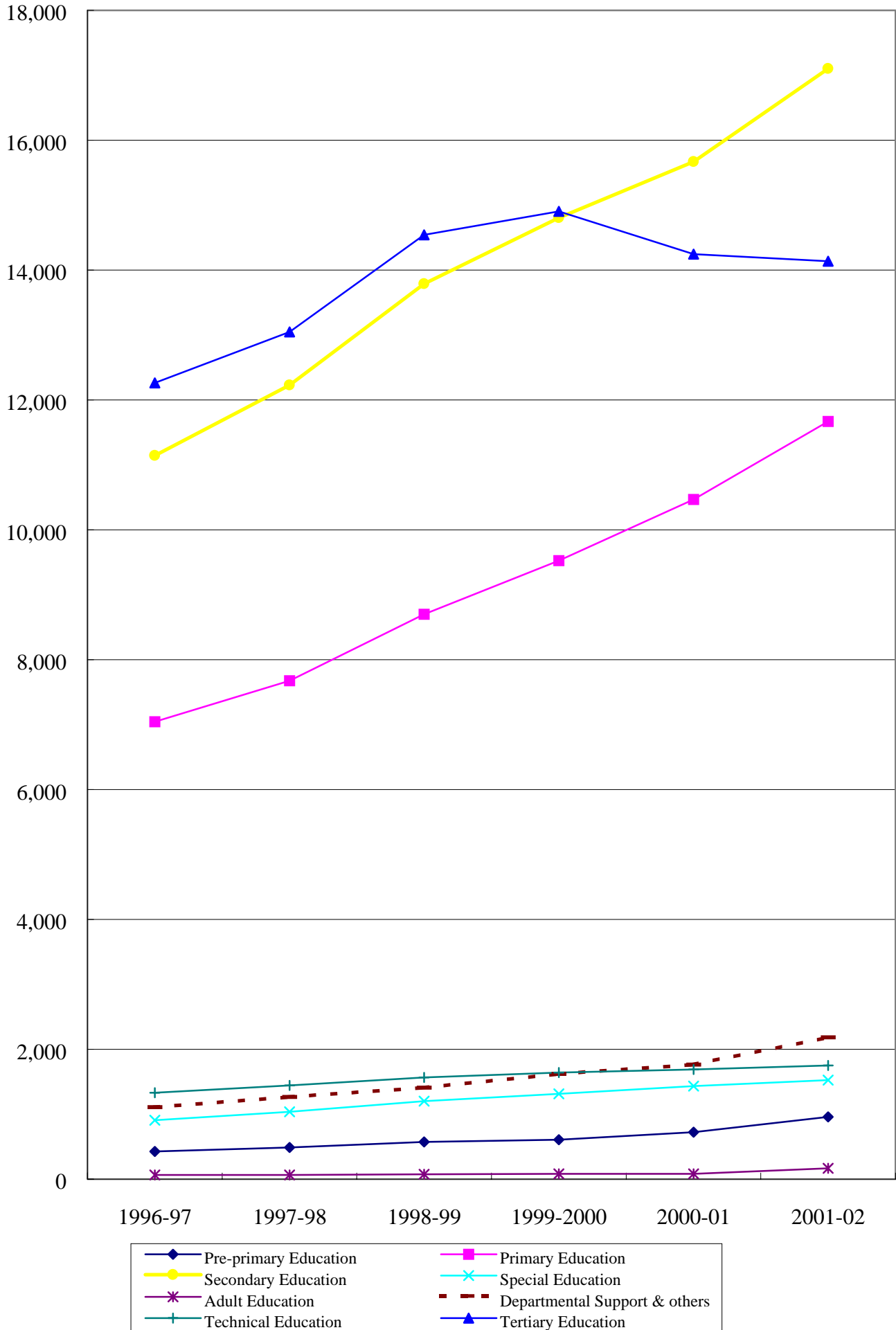
	1996-97 (%)	1997-98 (%)	1998-99 (%)	1999-2000 (%)	2000-01 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)	2001-02 (Estimate) (\$m)
(a) Pre-primary Education	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%	0.06%	0.07%
(b) Primary Education	0.59%	0.58%	0.69%	0.77%	0.82%	0.86%
(c) Secondary Education	0.94%	0.92%	1.09%	1.20%	1.23%	1.26%
(d) Special Education	0.08%	0.08%	0.10%	0.11%	0.11%	0.11%
(e) Adult Education	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
(f) Departmental Support & others						
- Teacher Training	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
- Others	0.09%	0.09%	0.11%	0.11%	0.12%	0.14%
(g) Technical Education	0.11%	0.11%	0.12%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%
(h) Tertiary Education						
- Teacher Training	0.07%	0.08%	0.10%	0.11%	0.10%	0.10%
- Others	0.96%	0.90%	1.05%	1.10%	1.02%	0.94%
Total (a) to (h)	2.88%	2.81%	3.32%	3.61%	3.62%	3.65%
GDP (\$ million)	1,191,890	1,323,862	1,259,306	1,231,363 ⁽⁸⁾	1,271,697 ⁽⁸⁾	1,355,630 ⁽⁸⁾

(v) Trend of educational expenditure

The following chart shows the trend of educational expenditure by areas –

Educational Expenditure by Areas

(\$ million)



Notes

1. *Expenditure on technical education covers vocational education offered by VTC's Institute of Vocational Education at both higher and basic levels.*
2. *The \$72 million earmarked for practical adult education over the next two years announced by the Financial Secretary in the Budget has not been included. Detailed programmes and cashflow are being worked out.*
3. *The increase in expenditure in 1999-2000 to 2001-02 is mainly due to the provision of various levels of information technology (IT) training to teachers for enhancement of IT in education.*
4. *The substantial increase in the 2001-02 expenditure for the areas on departmental support and others (Others) is mainly due to increased provision for contract technical support and maintenance services for IT in education, development of Basic Competency Assessments, District Network Scheme and curriculum reform.*
5. *The decrease in expenditure for teacher training under tertiary education in 2000-01 is due to a reduced cashflow requirement for housing benefits for staff of HKIEd and the 10% phased reduction in student unit costs for other UGC-funded institutions offering teacher training programmes by the end of the 1998/99-2000/01 triennium.*
6. *The decrease in expenditure for tertiary education (Others) in 2000-01 is mainly due to the 10% phased reduction in student unit costs for UGC-funded institutions by the end of the 1998/99-2000/01 triennium. The provision for 2001-02 is lower than 2000-01 because of the reduced requirement for recurrent grants to UGC-funded institutions.*
7. *The \$5 billion grant to the Quality Education Fund has not been included.*
8. *Figures are subject to revision.*

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB018

Question Serial No.

0903

**Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 146 Government Secretariat – Education and Manpower Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Education

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the amount of funding allocated to various universities, the Open University of Hong Kong, continuing education bodies (including private tertiary institutions and training-providers of the "Project Springboard"), the Hong Kong Institute of Education, the Vocational Training Council, adult education, all secondary schools, primary schools, kindergartens and special schools in the private, aided, bought place, direct subsidy and caput categories, international schools and schools under the English Schools Foundations as well as the unit cost of the subsidized places in the recent two years.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

The respective financial provision under the General Revenue Account and unit costs are set out below –

	Financial Provision		Unit Costs	
	2000-01 Revised Estimate (\$m)	2001-02 Draft Estimates (\$m)	2000-01	2001-02
Kindergartens under the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme ¹	127	151	N/A	N/A
Government primary schools ²	718	751	27,690	28,390
Aided primary schools	9,362	9,967	21,840	23,190
English Schools Foundation Junior Schools	127	129	23,110	23,170
Primary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme	13	53	20,740	22,010
Government secondary schools ²	1,293	1,325	45,550	46,470
Aided secondary schools	12,645	13,275	33,580	35,220
Schools under the Bought Place Scheme ³	96	22	39,810	N/A
Caput schools	257	271	34,800	36,540
English Schools Foundation Senior Schools	172	182	31,310	31,650
Local Secondary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme	622	778	32,550	34,110
International schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme	6	4	11,800	12,790
Aided special schools	1,248	1,293	136,390	141,330
Practical schools	82	82	54,270	56,330
Skills opportunity schools	104	106	82,640	85,650
Subvented adult education courses ⁴	17	18	660	690
Government adult education courses ²	66	76	4,950	5,420

	Financial Provision		Unit Costs	
	2000-01 Revised Estimate (\$m)	2001-02 Draft Estimates (\$m)	2000-01	2001-02
Vocational Training Council ⁵	2,110	2,127		
- Higher technician level			84,270	78,850
- Technician level			59,570	59,340
- Craft level			49,270	46,400
University Grants Committee-funded Institutions ⁶	13,136	12,848	228,540	226,360
The Hong Kong Institute of Education ⁶			172,000	NA
Open University of Hong Kong ⁷	1.3	1.3	42,000	43,600
Private tertiary institutions	-	-	N/A	N/A
Training providers of the Project Springboard ⁸	-	-	N/A	N/A

Notes

- 1 *The unit cost of kindergarten places is not available. The financial provision caters for Government's subsidy to non-profit-making kindergarten under the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme at a rate of \$41,000 per class in 2000/01 school year.*
- 2 *The unit cost for Government primary and secondary schools and Government adult education courses includes expenditure chargeable to Head 40 Education Department, and staff on-costs captured under Head 46 General Expenses of the Civil Service and Head 120 Pensions.*
- 3 *The Bought Place Scheme (BPS) will be abolished by the end of 2000/01 school year. The provision in 2001-02 covers the estimated expenditure for the last 5 months of 2000/01 school year.*
- 4 *In general, adult education courses organized by voluntary agencies are short-term ones and hence a comparatively lower unit subsidy than those of Government courses.*

5 *The total financial provision to the Vocational Training Council (VTC) covers both vocational education courses offered by VTC's Institute of Vocational Education and industrial training courses offered by VTC's training centres.*

6 *Subvention to individual institutions in 2000-01 (revised estimate) are –*

	(\$m)
City University of Hong Kong	1,794.4
Hong Kong Baptist University	730.4
Lingnan University	220.9
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	2,903.4
The Hong Kong Institute of Education	858.2
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	2,118.5
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	1,652.0
The University of Hong Kong	2,858.1

Regarding the subvention in 2001-02, the UGC has yet to decide on the exact allocations of the individual institutions' funding having regard to the results of the 2001/02 – 2003/04 triennial funding assessment and the surplus (estimated to be \$250 million) available from its central reserve for the 1998/99 – 2000/01 triennium. The concerned unit cost for HKIED will be worked out after the exact allocation is decided.

7 *The Open University of Hong Kong is a self-financing institution to which Government provides no recurrent subsidy except for reimbursement of rates. The unit cost figures are provided by the University.*

8 *Course providers basically run the Project Springboard on a self-financing basis, although Government will provide additional support initially for the three academic years from 2000/01 such as –*

- *tuition fee reimbursement*
- *provision for student support*
- *development of web-based models and self-learning packages.*

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Mrs Fanny Law

Secretary for Education and Manpower

19 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EMB019

Question Serial No.

0904

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat – Subhead :
Education and Manpower
Bureau

Programme : (2) Education

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What mechanism is the Government devising to support continuous professional development of teachers? What are the specific plans and timetables for implementing school-based management and appraisal system for teachers, upgrading all teachers to be trained degree holders, setting benchmarks for each subject, creating “Master Teacher” posts, developing a professional ladder and establishing a General Teaching Council? Please provide a breakdown of their respective estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply : Enhancement of teachers’ professional development has always been one of the Administration’s top priorities. The Administration has commissioned a study led by frontline educators to set out the generic core competencies for teachers, and is in parallel working with teachers’ professional bodies to enhance teachers’ professionalism in individual subjects. The profession and the public will be consulted in due course.

The established core competencies will provide the foundation for the establishment of a professional development ladder, the setting up of a General Teaching Council (for which the Administration has set aside \$20M as startup cost), and the development of ways and means to recognise outstanding teachers.

In addition, the Administration has been taking a wide range of measures to support teachers’ professional development :-

- (a) training programmes will continue to be provided to school managers, school heads and teachers to support the implementation of school-based management, e.g., to enable schools to submit annual school plans and annual reports from the 1999/2000 school year onwards and, to put in place a proper staff appraisal system by the end of the 2001/02 school year;
- (b) \$75M has been earmarked for providing language proficiency training and assessment for English and Putonghua teachers in the 2001-02 financial year; and
- (c) an additional 1 640 posts will be upgraded to graduate level in the 2001/02 school year at an additional cost of \$72M. Together with the 5 600 posts which have been upgraded since 1994/95, the target of 35% graduate primary school teaching posts being upgraded to graduate level will have been achieved.

Signature _____
Mrs Fanny Law
Name in block letters _____
Post Title Secretary for Education and Manpower _____
Date 20 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EMB020

Question Serial No.

1156

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (2) Education

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please list out the number of places provided by various tertiary and training institutions in the fields of information technology and financial services according to the qualification awarded upon graduation. Does the Administration have any plans to increase/decrease resources/capacities in the next five years?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : The student intake of publicly-funded places for information technology (IT) and financial services related programmes by levels are as follows :

(a) University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded Institutions (1999/2000)

	IT¹	Business and Finance²
Sub-degree	554	809
Undergraduate	1 766	3 731
Taught Postgraduate	224	573
Research Postgraduate	205	85
Total	2 749	5 198

¹ Only IT professional programmes are included. If all programmes related to IT are counted, the total number of places will be 5 569.

² The figures include management, accounting and economic programmes.

(b) Vocational Training Council (VTC) (2000/01)

	IT	Financial Services
Vocational Education	3 666	1 408
IT Assistant	900	-
IT Professional	230	-
Total	4 796	1 408

(c) Employees Retraining Board (ERB) (2000/01)

	IT
IT Technical Assistants	200

Apart from publicly-funded programmes, the UGC-funded institutions also offer self-financed programmes in IT and financial services through their continuing and professional education units. The Open University of Hong Kong, non-local education institutions and commercial training providers are also offering various education programmes on IT and business studies.

In view of the shortage of professionals in these two fields, the Government will continue to encourage all education institutions to increase the places for IT and financial services programmes in the coming years. We also anticipate a significant increase in self-financed programmes at post-secondary level to be offered in the coming years, in response to our new policy objective of increasing the age participation rate for tertiary education to 60% in ten years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead
Education and Manpower Bureau (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What measures and how much manpower and resources will the Education and Manpower Bureau use in the coming year to monitor the operation of the Employees Retraining Board and its employment of public funds?

Asked by : Hon. TING Woo-shou, Kenneth

Reply :

The Employees Retraining Board (ERB) is a statutory body with its own governing Board which is directly responsible and accountable for the proper running of the ERB. The Board consists of representatives of employers, employees, persons with experience in vocational training and manpower planning, and the Administration, namely Labour Department and Education and Manpower Bureau.

2. To tie in with the provision of recurrent funding to the ERB from 2001-02, EMB will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ERB. The MOU sets out, among other things, key output and outcome performance indicators and reporting requirements. With a stable source of income, the ERB is in a better position to strengthen the management and financial audit of its training bodies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 022

Question Serial No.

1158

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat : Subhead : 111 Hire of Services
 Education and Manpower Bureau and professional fees

Programme : All programmes

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Will the Administration provide details of the usage of the \$11,972,000 under Subhead 111 for Hire of services and professional fees?

Asked by : Hon Kenneth Ting Woo-shou

Reply : A breakdown of the estimates under *Subhead 111 Hire of services and professional fees* in 2001-02 is appended below-

Item	Estimate 2001-02
Contracting out the distribution of the monthly Employment and Training Guide	\$73,000
Opinion survey on age discrimination in employment	\$200,000
Fees for activities organised by the Hong Kong APEC Study Centre	\$250,000
Publicity for education-related initiatives	\$300,000
Basic law promotion in tertiary institutions	\$300,000

Item	Estimate 2001-02
Pilot exercise to survey graduates of local teacher education programmes	\$450,000
Study on the manpower needs of the Legal Services Sector of Hong Kong	\$500,000
Survey on the terms of employment of personal care workers in homes for the elderly relating to the Supplementary Labour Scheme	\$500,000
Maintenance and enhancement of the EMB Homepage, Quality Education Fund Homepage, Hong Kong Language Education Research Database and the Education Commission Homepage	\$1,130,000
Advisory fee for Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation	\$2,200,000
Publicity and consultation for the Education Commission	\$2,500,000
Reserve for other consultancies and hire of services	\$3,569,000
Total	\$11,972,000

Signature _____
Name in block letters Mrs Fanny Law
Post Title Secretary for Education and Manpower
Date 19 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead : 299
 Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Will the Administration provide details of the usage of the \$6,282,000 under Subhead 299 for Expenses for improved occupational safety and health standards?

Asked by : Hon Kenneth Ting Woo-shou

Reply : Subhead 299 was created in 1998-99 following the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (OSHO) in 1997. The provision is mainly used to improve the working environment in the public and subvented sectors in order to comply with the requirements under the OSHO, including the provision of training for staff and purchase of equipment. Since this is a lump sum provision, there is no breakdown of individual expenditure items.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat – Subhead :
Education and Manpower
Bureau

Programme : (2) Education

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the subsidised items and the amounts involved under the Funding Scheme for Workplace English Training. In what way will the Administration assess the effectiveness of the Scheme?

Asked by : Hon. Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply : The Funding Scheme for Workplace English Training provides subsidy to meet :-

- (a) 50% of employees' English training costs and examination fees for specified English language tests, upon an applicant's attainment of English benchmarks specific to his profession. Applicants are subsidised to take up to three training courses and one set of examination. Depending on the number of training courses taken, the maximum subsidy is \$4,500 per applicant;
- (b) 50% of the development cost of English training courses for specific trades or professions which are not available in the market, up to a maximum of \$500,000 per course.

For (a), about 15 600 applications (involving \$22.1 million) have been approved or are being processed, and more applications are still being received. For (b), 22 proposals (involving \$2.2 million) have been approved or are being processed.

The Scheme has heightened public awareness of the importance of English in the workplace. The number of employees who successfully

attain higher English proficiency through public examinations is a measure of the effectiveness of the Scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB025

Question Serial No.

1331

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
 Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding the pilot project for helping the long-term unemployed get back to work, how many people have received assistance so far? How many employers are willing to participate in the project?

Asked by : The Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged aims at serving 2 000 participants with a budget of \$9.8 m, 75% of which or \$7.35 m have been earmarked under Head 90 Labour Department Subhead 700 for 2001-02.

The programme was launched on 1 February 2001. The initial response to the Programme has been very encouraging. As at 12.3.2001, the Labour Department had received 899 enquiries from employers and 1 624 enquiries from prospective participants. A total of 335 eligible persons have enrolled. Training and career counselling for the first batch of participants started in mid-February. We will commence to arrange placement for the participants after the relevant training and counselling have been completed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB026

Question Serial No.

1332

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat – Subhead :
Education and Manpower
Bureau

Programme : (2) Education

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the expenditure involved in the provision of an additional senior teacher post in all public sector primary schools to provide leadership in developing the English curriculum and in the teaching of English? Has the Administration earmarked any funds for the provision of additional senior teacher post to take charge of the Chinese or Putonghua subject?

Asked by : The Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Starting from the 2001/02 school year, we will be upgrading in phases over five years one Certificated Master/ Assistant Primary School Master post to a senior teacher post in each public sector primary school to enhance curriculum leadership in the teaching of English. A sum of \$16 million has been set aside under Head 40 – Education Department in the Draft Estimates for upgrading 145 posts in the coming school year. The full-year recurrent expenditure for the initiative is estimated at \$134 million.

We do not have any plan to provide additional senior teacher posts for other subjects for the time being.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 15 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head :146 Government Secretariat - EMB Subhead(No. & title) : 700 General other non-recurrent

Programme : (1) Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question :
1. Regarding Item 029 Publicity programme against age discrimination in employment under Subhead 700, what are the work involved, planned expenditure, expected results and timetable?
 2. The Administration plans to conduct another survey on age discrimination in 2001. What are the expenditure and timetable of this exercise?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

- Reply :
1. The provision of \$1.23 million under Head 146 Subhead 700 Item 029 is for the publicity programme against age discrimination in employment in 2001-02. The proposed programme includes production of a series of three short TV promotional films on different aspects of the issue and the production of CD-ROM for general distribution. We also propose to put up advertisements on buses and trams during the peak months of employment, i.e. around summer. We aim to complete the above publicity programme before the end of 2001.
 2. In addition, EMB plans to commission another survey towards the end of 2001 to gauge public opinion on the effectiveness of the current public education programme and to collect public views on age discrimination in employment. The total expenditure required for this survey is estimated to be in the region of \$250 000, spread over two years.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title

Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB238

Question Serial No.

0389

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat
Education and Manpower Bureau

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Education

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : During the academic years from 1999/2000 to 2001/02, the numbers of First-Year-First-Degree (FYFD) places as percentages of relevant age group are 17%, 16% and 16% respectively, being lower than 18% for three consecutive years and failing to achieve the target pledged by the Government. What are the reasons for this? Will the Government increase the FYFD in order to achieve an 18% age participation rate at the university level?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : Since 1994/95, it has been the Government's policy to provide 14 500 FYFD places for about 18% of the 17-20 age group. In implementing the policy, the Government takes into account factors such as the number of qualified candidates for admission to universities and the projected population figures available at the time of planning.

According to the population projections available at the time of planning, 14 500 represents 17.9%, 17.5% and 17.2% of the relevant age cohort, which are quite close to the 18% target. The Census and Statistics Department has recently adopted a new approach in projecting population figures. Under the new approach, the projected population of the 17-20 age group has increased. As a result, the number of publicly-funded FYFD places as a percentage of the relevant age group for 1999/2000, 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 have been revised to be 16.8%, 16.4% and 16.1% respectively.

Despite the slight shortfall, based on the results of the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) and discounting an estimated number of HKALE candidates who pursue their studies overseas, 14 500 places covered 104%, 99% and 95% of HKALE candidates who fulfilled the minimum entry requirements of universities (4 passes including English and Chinese) in 1998, 1999 and 2000 respectively. Allowing some healthy competition and to maintain the quality of the student intake, the planning target of 14 500 has, by and large, met the community's need.

Moreover, as the University Grants Committee sector has entered a consolidation stage when more focus should be put on quality, the Government has decided that the number of FYFD places should remain at 14 500 for the 2001/02 to 2003/04 triennium. In planning for the 2004/05-2006/07 triennium, the Government will take into account the findings of the 2001 Population Census in determining the number of FYFD places.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB242

Question Serial No.

0930

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 146 Government Secretariat Subhead :
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme : (2) Education

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : (a) The Government and the UGC have been applying different formulae in calculating provisions, resulting in an accumulative shortfall of at least \$1b. What was the shortfall in each of the last three triennia? The shortfalls in provision have caused the universities to make adjustments to the number of places. Please provide a breakdown of such adjustments by level of study.

 (b) When will the Government recompense the UGC for the shortfall accumulated over the years?

Asked by : Hon SZETO Wah

Reply : (a) Ever since the inception of the UGC system in the 1960s, it has been our established practice to adopt an overall average student unit cost in determining the funding for the UGC sector. The total funding based on this approach has been able to cater for the institutions' planned student places over the past triennia. In fact, the funding allocation for the UGC sector has supported substantial increase in degree or above places over the last three triennia. Details are set out below:

	1992-1995		1995-1998*		1998-2001		2001-2004	
	No.	No	Change	No	Change	No	Change	
<i>Sub-degree</i>	32 106	38 059	18.5%	43 730	14.9%	36 005	-17.7%	
<i>% of total</i>	19.6	19.5		21.3		17.5		
<i>Undergraduate</i>	113 880	133 055	16.8%	135 177	1.6%	140 214	3.7%	
<i>% of total</i>	69.4	68.1		65.8		68.3		
<i>Taught postgraduate</i>	11 267	14 499	28.7%	15 690	8.2%	16 571	5.6%	
<i>% of total</i>	6.9	7.4		7.6		8.1		
<i>Research postgraduate</i>	6 685	9 863	47.5%	10 785	9.3%	12 525	16.1%	
<i>% of total</i>	4.1	5.0		5.3		6.1		
<i>Total</i>	163 938	195 476	19.2%	205 382	5.1%	205 315	0%	

* HKIEd became a UGC-funded institution in 1996/97.

In planning for the 2001/02 to 2003/04 triennium, the UGC has pointed out that the present formula will impose funding constraints on the UGC as we seek a progressive increase in degree and above places to be offset by a reduction in the less costly sub-degree places in the next triennium. The Administration sees the merit in the argument and agrees, in principle, that student mix and student unit cost by levels should be taken into account in determining funding for the UGC sector in future, subject to the availability of resources.

- (b) We expect that the institutions will have cash-flow surpluses to the order of \$5b in total by the end of this (i.e. 1998/99 to 2000/01) triennium. In addition, the UGC will distribute its central savings amounting to around \$250m to the institutions so that they can carry over to the next triennium as additions to the block grant. Should the UGC sector encounter any genuine financial difficulties during the 2001/02 to 2003/04 triennium, the Government undertakes to identify scope for additional allocation to the UGC, over and above the funding level currently proposed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 537 Employees Retraining Board
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question : (a) The Employees Retraining Board will provide a total of 100,000 retraining places next year which is the same as the current year. There will only be a shift in the number of places of four different types of programmes. Is there a need for the Government to increase provision for the ERB so that additional places can be provided to benefit more unemployed persons?
- (b) The Government is considering setting up a Start-up Fund for the self-employed. What are the size and mode of operation of the Fund at the initial stage? Will the fund be borne solely by the Government? Please give details of the eligibility and estimated number of beneficiaries?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

- (a) On top of the \$400 million annual block grant to be provided by the Government, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) expects to receive \$18 million income in 2001-02 from the levy on employers of imported labour under the Supplementary Labour Scheme, interest income from its reserves and tuition fee for part-time courses. Under the new funding arrangement, the ERB will also retain some \$180 million from the Employees Retraining Fund as its reserves to meet changes in service needs. The recurrent funding and the reserves should provide ERB with sufficient resources to offer quality retraining.

While there will not be changes in the total number of retraining places planned for 2001-02, the ERB will step up its services for the unemployed. For instance, the planned places of full-time tailor-made programmes will increase from 1 500 in 2000-01 to 1 700 in 2001-02. As part of its effort to enhance the quality of retraining, the ERB has standardised the content and duration of its major courses and include additional modules on basic computer application and soft skills. As a result, the total number of planned training hours for regular full-time placement-tied course will increase by over 260 000 hours in 2001-02, compared with the total training hours in 2000-01.

- (b) The ERB proposes to set aside \$50 million from the Employees Retraining Fund as its total commitment for the Self-employment Business Start-up Fund (BSF).

Under the proposed Fund, the ERB will act as a guarantor for retrainees who obtain loans from approved lending institutions. Our current thinking is that the guarantee will cover up to 70% of the loan amount. Except for special cases, the maximum amount of loan in each case is \$100,000. The loan may be used to meet capital and other incidental expenses for setting up the businesses.

All ERB retrainees who have completed ERB's full-time or part-time self-employment course, or

regular full-time job specific skill course will be eligible to apply for the loan guarantee. It is expected that over 140 eligible retrainees will be able to benefit from the proposed Fund during the first year.

To complement its self-employment courses and the support available under the proposed BSF, the ERB also plans to provide enhanced post-training support, covering –

- (i) a 12-month follow-up counseling/support service;
- (ii) advisory/mentor services by experienced businessmen, professionals and those having experience in business start-up/self-employment; and
- (iii) setting up of self-employment corners in ERB's retraining resource centres, with basic office and communal support facilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower _____

Date _____ 19 March 2001 _____

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead :No. & title
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question : (a) Regarding the "tailor-made training courses", how much resource will the Administration set aside for the implementation of this programme in the next financial year? Is there an increase in expenditure over last year?
- (b) What is the progress of the above programme? What is the average unit cost for training of employees?
- (c) In the coming year, how much staff resources will the EMB deploy and what are the measures adopted to promote this programme among the industrial and commercial sectors and members of the public?

Asked by : Hon TING Woo-shou, Kenneth

Reply :

- (a) In 2001-02, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) has earmarked \$14.2 million for tailor-made programmes. This is about 19% more than the budgeted expenditure of \$11.9 million in 2000-01.
- (b) Tailor-made programmes are developed in consultation with employers/trade associations and can therefore cater for the specific needs of individual employers. Hence, the employment opportunities of the retrainees are more assured. The job placement of tailor-made retraining courses were 88% in 1999-2000 and estimated to be 82% in 2000-01. The average unit cost per trainee is about \$6,400.
- (c) The ERB has earmarked \$2.8 million in 2001-02 to promote its courses, including tailor-made programmes. ERB's promotional efforts cover production of newsletter, promotional leaflets, corporate videos and brochures, staging of careers exhibitions, road shows and seminars. In addition, the ERB regularly visits individual employers and trade associations to improve their awareness of the scheme. The ERB also organises tailor-made programmes for employers who import labour under the Supplementary Labour Scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB030

Question Serial No.

0800

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 537 Employees Retraining Board
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The indicators of "placement rate of regular full-time placement-tied retraining courses" and "placement rate of tailor-made retraining courses" for 2001-02 are 70% and 80% respectively, both lower than the 75% and 82% for 2000-01. Does this reflect that courses provided by the Employees Retraining Board are unable to meet the needs of the job market, resulting in a drop in the placement rates?

Asked by : Hon WU King-cheong, Henry

Reply : The 70% placement target for graduates of regular full-time placement-tied courses and the 80% target for graduates of tailor-made courses are set by the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) as performance benchmarks for the training bodies.

2. The actual job placement rate depends partly on the quality of retraining and the placement assistance provided, and partly on the wider labour market situation. There are variation from year to year. A 68% placement rate was recorded for regular full-time courses in 1998 when the economic downturn was at its worst. With the steady recovery of the economy and the strenuous efforts made by the ERB and its training bodies, the ERB was able to achieve a 75% job placement for regular full-time courses and 88% for tailor-made courses in 1999-2000. We consider a 70% target for regular full-time courses and 80% target for tailor-made courses to be reasonable benchmarks, having regard to the profile of the retrainees concerned. The ERB and its training bodies will continue its efforts to exceed the benchmarks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB031

Question Serial No.

0978

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead :
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Why is there a drop in the number of regular full-time retraining courses in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The total number of retraining places proposed for regular full-time courses (other than tailor-made programmes organised for specific employers/trade associations) in 2001-02 is 44,660, which is slightly less than the estimated actual number of 46,200 in 2000-2001. However, the total training hours for these courses will increase from 4,440,000 in 2000-2001 to 4,708,000 in 2001-2002, an increase of about 6%. This is due to ERB's exercise to standardise the content and duration of the major courses which will include additional modules on basic computer application and soft skills. The aim is to enhance the quality and the impact of retraining.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead :
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In what way will the performance of the retraining bodies and the effectiveness of the courses provided be monitored? What is the provision involved?

Asked by : Hon TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The Employees Retraining Board (ERB) has taken a number of measures to monitor the performance of training bodies and the effectiveness of retraining courses. These measures include –

- (a) The ERB has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with its training bodies, laying down key performance indicators as well as the rights and obligations of training bodies in providing retraining courses. The ERB has also issued detailed guidelines on operational and accounting procedures for training bodies to follow.
- (b) The ERB has strengthened its auditing and monitoring functions. A Management Audit Department has been set up since August 1999 and is headed by a professional accountant. The Department conducts regular audit checks on the accounts of training bodies. The Course Administration Department of ERB pays regular site visits to training centres to ensure compliance with the guidelines on course administration.
- (c) At the Board level, the ERB has set up a Management Audit Working Group to review and follow up findings and recommendations arising from ERB's financial, course administration and placement audits. The ERB also reviews the list of approved training bodies regularly.
- (d) To assure quality of retraining courses, the ERB is about to complete an exercise to standardize the name, curriculum and duration of the major retraining courses.
- (e) To solicit feedback from retrainees about the usefulness of retraining courses, graduates of retraining courses are requested to complete a post-course evaluation questionnaire. The ERB also commissions periodic users' opinion surveys to obtain feedback from employers as well as retrainees.

The monitoring of training bodies is carried out as part of ERB's routine work. With two additional posts at executive level to be created in the Management Audit Department of ERB in 2001-2002, total staff costs for the Department will amount to \$1.7 million. A sum of \$0.5 million has been earmarked for users' opinion surveys in 2001-02.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower _____

Date _____ 16 March 2001 _____

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 537
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : According to paragraph 41 on page 400, the placement rate of regular full-time placement-tied retraining courses in jobs relevant to training is 60%, which is not satisfactory. What are the reasons for such unsatisfactory rate? What measures will the ERB adopt to improve the placement rate?

Asked by : Hon CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply: The 60% indicator refers to the number of placements in jobs related to the training courses as a percentage of the total number of placements. It is based on past experience.

2. Whether a retrainee can find a directly relevant job depends on the market situation at the time. It is unlikely that a retrainee would refrain from applying for a job which became available simply because it was not related to the ERB course taken. The indicator is more for reference than as a measure of ERB's performance. A more pertinent indicator is the overall job placement rate which is 70%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 537
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : One of the "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02" is that the ERB will continue to enhance the quality of retraining through standardised courses and provision of multi-skills training. What are the major areas involved in the standardisation of courses? How many places are provided in these courses and what is the proportion to the overall capacity?

Asked by : Hon CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : The majority of courses offered by the Employees Retraining Board have been standardised in terms of course name, content, design and duration. Common assessment system and standard training manuals have also been developed. The main categories of training programmes include :

- Part-time basic computer skills training
- Security and property management training
- Domestic helpers training
- Clerical training
- Personal care workers training
- Job search skills training
- IT technical assistants training

The planned training capacity for the above standardised retraining courses is about 86 000 places in 2001-02, representing some 86% of the total retraining places to be offered.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 537
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : One of the "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02" is that the ERB will develop self-employment programmes and explore the possibility of setting up a self-employment business start-up fund. What is the number of courses and in-takes as planned by the ERB? What is the estimated expenditure for this task (including the setting up of a self-employment business start-up fund)?

Asked by : Hon CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : The Employees Retraining Board (ERB) has offered, on a pilot basis, three self-employment courses to help retrainees to become self-employed. These courses cover domestic work, property maintenance and beauty care. The ERB plans to organise some 20 self-employment courses covering the above areas as well as other new trades with a total capacity of 400 places in 2001-02. The estimated expenditure amounts to some \$2.65 million.

2. The ERB will launch a Self-Employment Business Start-up Scheme to provide enhanced follow-up support to retrainees, who have completed ERB's full-time programmes, and will set up their own businesses. The support programme will cover 12-month counselling/advisory service as well as the provision of guarantee for retrainees who obtain loans from banks. The ERB plans to set aside \$50 million from the Employees Retraining Fund for the scheme, with \$10 million as the provision for the first year of operation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 537
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide further information on the following indicators —

- (a) The estimated capacity utilisation rate in 2000-01 is 80%, which is lower than the actual rate of 93% in 1999-2000. What are the reasons?
- (b) The estimated completion rate in 2000-01 is 80%, which is lower than the actual rate of 90% in 1999-2000. What are the reasons?
- (c) Why is the planned placement rate of regular full-time placement-tied retraining courses in 2001-02 5% down as compared to the estimated rate of last year?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The 80% capacity utilisation rate for 2000-01 represents the benchmark for assessing the performance of individual retraining courses and the training bodies offering the courses. It is also a target rate below which funding for the training body providing the course will be proportionately reduced. Over the years, the actual capacity utilisation rates recorded are well above 80%. As at end January 2001, the projected capacity utilisation rate for 2000-01 is 91%.
- (b) The 80% completion rate estimated for 2000-01 and 2001-02 represents the performance benchmark for assessing the work of training bodies. It is a benchmark below which training bodies are required to give explanations for the low standard achieved. Repeated failures to attain the prescribed benchmark will result in discontinuation of the training course in question. The actual completion rates recorded over the years are well above 80%. The updated estimated completion rate for 2000-01 is about 90%.
- (c) The 70% job placement rate is the performance benchmark set for training bodies offering full-time placement-tied retraining courses. It is the main performance indicator to measure the effectiveness of full-time placement-tied retraining courses and the placement assistance provided by training bodies. Full-time placement-tied retraining courses repeatedly failing to achieve this target will be discontinued. In actual fact, training bodies have generally been able to achieve a higher rate. For instance, the overall job placement rate was 75% for the past two years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower _____

Date _____ 20 March 2001 _____

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead :
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide information on the following service indicators —

- (a) The placement rate of regular full-time placement-tied retraining courses in jobs relevant to training is only 60%. In arriving at this estimate, what criteria does the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) base on?
- (b) In regard to the "job retention rate after 6 months for all placements", what is the rate of jobs which are relevant to training at the time the survey was made?
- (c) What will be the additional fund and manpower deployed by ERB to strengthen the monitoring of the training bodies as well as the overall Employees Retraining Scheme?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The 60% relevant job placement rate is a benchmark which is set having regard to past experience. Whether a retrainee can find a directly relevant job depends on the market situation at the time. It is unlikely that a retrainee would refrain from applying for a job which became available simply because it was not related to the ERB course taken. The indicator is more for reference than as a measure of ERB's performance. A more pertinent indicator is the overall job placement rate which is 70%.
- (b) At present, ERB does not collect data on the relevant job placement rate of retrainees placed into employment after 6 months. Nevertheless, according to the findings of a recent ad hoc retention survey on 35 classes of full-time placement-tied retraining courses completed in January 2000, some 69% of the 449 retrainees interviewed were found to have been placed into relevant trades or industries. Among these, 32% were still holding their first jobs after 6 months. In 2001-02, ERB plans to collect statistics on job retention of retrainees at quarterly intervals (including relevant job placement rate).
- (c) In order to strengthen its monitoring role, a Management Audit Working Group has been set up by the Executive Director/ERB to examine irregularities identified in management audit checks and to discuss follow up actions. New sets of accounting and administrative guidelines have been issued to training bodies to ensure efficient use of resources. Two additional posts at the executive level will be created in the coming financial year to strengthen management, financial and course administration audits, and to check job placement statistics compiled by training bodies. The funding required for the two additional posts is about \$500,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower _____

Date _____ 17 March 2001 _____

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead :
 Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention: Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please explain the following targets and indicators :

- (a) the planned retraining places of regular full-time courses for 2001-02 is 446 660, which is less than that of 2000-01. What are the reasons?
- (b) the estimated completion rate for 2000-01 and the planned completion rate for 2001-02 both are only 80%, which are lower than the actual rate of 90% for 1999-2000. What are the reasons?
- (c) the planned placement rate of regular full-time placement-tied retraining courses for 2001-02 is 70%, which is lower than the 75% of the previous two years. What are the reasons?
- (d) the placement rate of tailor-made retraining courses is only 82%, which is lower than the 88% of 1999-2000. What are the reasons? Why is the planned placement rate of these courses for 2001-02 further reduced to 80%?

Asked by : Hon CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The total number of retraining places proposed for regular full-time placement-tied courses in 2001-02 is 44,660, which is slightly less than the estimated number of 46,200 in 2000-01. However, the total number of training hours for these courses will in fact be increased from 4,440,000 in 2000-01 to 4,708,000 in 2001-02, an increase by over 260,000 training hours or about 6%. This is due to ERB's exercise to standardise the content and duration of the major courses which will include additional modules on basic computer application and soft skills. The aim is to enhance the quality and the impact of retraining.
- (b) The 80% completion rate estimated for 2001-02 represents the performance benchmark for assessing the work of training bodies. Training bodies are required to give explanations if they fail to meet the benchmark. Repeated failures to attain the prescribed standard will result in discontinuation of the training course in question. The actual completion rates recorded over the years are above 80%. The most up-to-date estimated completion rate for 2000-01 is around 90%.
- (c) The 70% job placement rate is the performance benchmark set for training bodies offering full-time placement-tied retraining courses. It is the main performance indicator to measure the effectiveness of retraining courses and the placement assistance provided by training bodies. Retraining courses repeatedly failing to achieve this target will be discontinued. In actual fact, training bodies have generally been able to achieve a higher rate. For instance, the overall job placement rate was 75% for the past two years (based on actual figure for 1999-2000 and estimate for 2000-01).

- (d) The 80% job placement target for tailor-made retraining courses is a benchmark to assess the effectiveness of retraining courses. The job placement rate achieved depends partly on the quality of retraining and the placement assistance provided, and partly on the wider labour market situation. In the past, training bodies were generally able to meet this placement benchmark. For instance, the ERB was able to achieve 88% (actual figure) and 82% (estimate) job placement for its tailor-made courses in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively. Overall speaking, we consider an 80% target for tailor-made courses to be a reasonable benchmark, having regard to the profile of the retrainees concerned. The ERB and its training bodies will continue to make efforts to exceed the benchmark.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower _____

Date _____ 17 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EMB039

Question Serial No.

1411

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 537 Employees Retraining Board
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What are the details of the surveys on the job retention rates of retrainees?
What are the staffing and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

In 2001-02, the ERB plans to conduct job retention surveys for retrainees of all tailor-made programmes. For other regular full-time placement-tied retraining courses, the ERB plans to conduct retention surveys on a sampling basis, covering about 10% of those graduate retrainees. The retention surveys will be conducted on a quarterly basis to gauge the employment status of retrainees three and six months after they have been placed into jobs. The retention surveys will be conducted by training bodies under ERB's supervision. The ERB estimates that an additional annual cost of \$90,000 will be incurred.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date 17 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 537
 Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Employees Retraining Board

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question : (a) What is the unit cost for trainees of the Employees Retraining Board last year and what will be the estimated unit cost for the coming year? What is the employment rate of trainees graduated last year?
- (b) For the new financial year, has the ERB allocated funds to implement measures to improve its training courses so as to better meet the requirements of business concerns and improve the employment rate of graduates?
- (c) Has the EMB collected from retrainees feedback on the various retraining courses so as to evaluate the effectiveness of its retraining service more accurately?

Asked by : Hon TING Woo-shou, Kenneth

Reply :

- (a) The average cost per retrainee of regular full-time placement-tied courses in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is estimated to be \$6,221 and \$6,160 respectively. The corresponding figures for part-time courses are \$1,292 and \$1,307 respectively. The placement rate of full-time placement-tied courses in 2000-2001 is estimated to be 75%.
- (b) In the coming financial year, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) will continue with various measures to improve the quality of retraining courses to meet the market demand and the employers' requirements. These measures include further enhancement of course quality with standardised content, training hours and training materials. A common assessment, certification and recognition system is being developed to assess the standards achieved by graduates of standardised courses and issue certification for those who meet the required standards. This is a quality assurance measure to enhance employers' confidence in and acceptance of the skill levels of graduates of retraining courses. The Course Administration Department of ERB will continue to pay regular site visits to training centres to ensure compliance with guidelines on course administration. Two additional posts at the executive level, incurring about \$0.5 million of staff costs, will be created in the Management Audit Department to further strengthen management, financial and course administration audits, and to check job placement statistics compiled by training bodies.
- (c) To solicit feedback from retrainees about the usefulness of retraining courses, graduates of retraining courses are requested to complete a post-course evaluation questionnaire. The ERB also commissions periodic users' opinion surveys to obtain feedback from employers as well as retrainees. Findings of these surveys will be submitted to the Board for examination and to the Education and Manpower Bureau for reference.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower _____

Date _____ 19 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EMB041

Question Serial No.

0393

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions :
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Subhead : 520, 871, 976 Vocational Training
Council

Programme : (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council – part

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Vocational Training Council will adopt a more effective labour market analysis in 2001-02 to further develop the method of forecasting manpower needs. Please give the details. What was the expenditure in this area last year? Will additional resources be reserved for this in the coming financial year?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The Vocational Training Council (VTC) has set up a Task Force to improve its manpower assessment methodology based on enhanced labour market analysis. The aim is to provide more reliable outputs which better reflect the labour market situation and to speed up the assessment cycle. The VTC will implement the enhanced labour market analysis in two phases as follows:

2. Phase 1. To adopt On-line Analytical Processing (OLAP) hardware and software to speed up the collection, analysis and dissemination of labour market data and information so that the public can have access to such information from the World Wide Web. The trial run for Phase 1 has started in March 2001 and will be completed by late 2003 for all the major economic sectors covered by the training boards and general committees of the VTC.

3. Phase 2. To acquire new Data Warehousing hardware and software to increase the storage of economic and labour market data and enable the use of state-of-the-art analytical tools for more comprehensive data analysis and reporting. Phase 2 is scheduled to start in late 2003.

4. In the past twelve months, the Council has deployed existing resources to start off the project, and no additional expenditure has been incurred. Through internal redeployment of VTC resources, \$2.4 million has been earmarked for the project in 2001-02.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law _____
Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower _____
Date _____ 17 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EMB042

Question Serial No.

0394

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 520, 871, 976 Vocational
Non-Departmental Public Bodies Training Council

Programme : (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council - part

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Vocational Training Council will step up its efforts in trade testing. Please give the details. How much will be spent on this?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2001/02, the VTC will increase public trade testing from 17 to 18 craft trades. The overall annual trade testing capacity will also increase from 1,555 in 2000/01 to 2,350 in 2001/02. The annual estimated expenditure in 2001/02 for trade testing at craft levels will be about \$7 million. Apart from trade testing at craft levels, tests in information technology and security services will also be provided.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB043

Question Serial No.

0395

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 520, 871, 976 Vocational
Non-Departmental Public Bodies Training Council

Programme : (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council - part

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the setting up of the Vocational English Centre and the Hong Kong IT Skills Assessment Centre respectively?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : For the Vocational English Centre, \$1.8 million will be provided for the first year of operation in 2001-02. As for the Hong Kong Information Technology Skills Assessment Centre, \$4 million has been earmarked for its first year of operation in 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB044

Question Serial No.

0761

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : Head 177 Subventions : Non- Departmental Public Bodies Subhead :No. & title 520, 871 and 976

Programme : 17701 Vocational Training Council – Part (Policy Area 8 : Employment)

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Vocational Training Council plans to set up the Vocational English Centre this year. At the same time, English courses of levels ranging from the elementary to professional are being offered by organisations such as the Federation of Trade Unions, other trade unions and educational institutes, should resources be expended on setting up a Vocational English Centre? Or is there anything special about the courses offered by the Centre?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : The Vocational English Centre aims to provide vocational English courses to meet the practical needs of different trades for vocational English. To ensure quality and to promote wide acceptance of the Centre's qualifications, the standards of courses will be subject to proper accreditation and be pegged with the corresponding levels under the Hong Kong Vocational English Programmes. The Centre is expected to be run on a self-financing basis from 2002-03 onwards.

2. Since the market demand for vocational English courses at different levels is high in Hong Kong, courses offered by VTC's Vocational English Centre will help meet this demand.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB046

Question Serial No.

0876

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead : 520, 871 & 976
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : Subvention : Vocational Training Council (Policy Area 8: Employment
Policy Area 16: Education)

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question :
- (a) Apart from downsizing, please list out in what other areas is the effectiveness of the Enhanced Productivity Programme reflected in 2000/01?
 - (b) What are the amounts of staff emoluments and other allowances as shown in the recurrent account?
 - (c) Please list out the emoluments, allowance (items and amounts) of teaching and non-teaching staff by their ranks?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

- Reply : (a) Apart from measures relating to the reduction of staffing provision, the following measures were undertaken in the Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP) in 2000-01:
- (i) adjustment of the remuneration rate of part-time staff having regard to the market situation (savings of \$15.5 million); and
 - (ii) economising on the provision for consumable materials and tools, repairs and maintenance of furniture and equipment, and library books (savings of \$6.1 million);

(b)&(c) The breakdown of the provision for salaries and allowances included in 2001-02 recurrent subvention is stated below:

	Estimates (\$'M)		
	Academic	Non-Academic	Total
- Full-time staff expenses	1,394.6	483.6	1,878.2
Full-time staff salaries	1082.0	374.3	
Fringe benefits and on-cost to Government	311.6	103.5	
Overtime and other allowances	1.0	5.8	
- Part-time/temporary staff expenses	196.3	10.3	206.6

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB047

Question Serial No.

0984

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 – Subventions : Subhead :
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : (2) Vocational Training Council – Part

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding the setting up of a quality assurance and assessment team to strengthen the monitoring of the work of the VTC, please detail its staff establishment and financial implications.

Asked by : Hon TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The staff provision of the Vocational Training Council (VTC)'s Quality Assurance and Audit Unit comprises two Education Officers, one Executive Officer and two clerical staff. The total expenditure earmarked for 2001-02 is \$3.6 million and is funded through internal redeployment of resources by the VTC.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB048

Question Serial No.

1391

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead :
 Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council – Part (Policy Area 8 :
 Employment)

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Vocational Training Council will establish the IT Skills Assessment Centre in
 2001/02. Will the Government inform this Council :

- (a) Holders of what kind of qualification will be assessed by the Centre?
- (b) What areas will be covered in the assessment?
- (c) Will the assessment certificates issued by the Centre be recognized by the Government when it recruits IT personnel? If not, what are the reasons?
- (d) Acceptance of the assessment certificates by employers is very important. Does the Government have any plans to promote the certificates among employers? If yes, what is the budget for it?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

- (a) The Hong Kong IT Skills Assessment Centre (HKITSAC) will provide skill-based tests for IT users and practitioners. As the tests aim at ascertaining the skill level of participants, no academic qualifications will be set for attending the tests.
- (b) The HKITSAC plans to offer assessment tests covering the following areas in 2001-02 –
Basic skills as taught in the
 - Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and IT Assistant Training
 - PC Computing Skills and Office Applications
 - Design, support and development in Web/Internet/E-commerceOther topics to be included in subsequent years are:
 - Windows and Networking Support
 - System development, Object Oriented Technology
 - Linux

The HKITSAC will review the scope and coverage of the assessment test regularly in the light of emerging technology trends.

- (c) & (d) The Vocational Training Council (VTC) recognises the importance of securing employers' support of the certificates issued by the HKITSAC. For that purpose, the assessment benchmarks have been endorsed by VTC's Committee on IT Training and Development, which comprises members drawn from the local IT industry. The HKITSAC also plans to arrange meetings with professional bodies, industry and employer associations to promote its work and to explore possible scope for collaboration. Apart from the promotion launched through VTC's marketing and public relations unit, a provision of \$800,000 has been earmarked for the initial promotion of the scheme. About \$100,000 will be spent annually for promotion in subsequent years.

When further details have been worked out, further discussion will be initiated with the relevant Government departments to discuss the possibility of recognising the HKITSAC's qualifications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB049

Question Serial No.

1392

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 – Subventions : Subhead :No. & title
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : (2) Subvention : Vocational Training Council – Part (Policy Area 16)

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide the number of places for each of the IVE full-time courses in 2000/01 and 2001/02.

Asked by : The Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-shing, JP

Reply : The requested information is provided in the attached table.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Reply to FC Question No. : 1392 :

Number of Year-1 Student Places in full-time Courses
Officered by the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education

Discipline	Level	Course No.	Course Title	Duration (Year)	2000/2001	2001/2002 (Planned)
					Year-1	Year-1
BA	C	0154	Cert. in Word Process. & Office Practice	1	40	0
DPTC	C	0546	Vocational Certificate in Hairdressing	1	80	0
DPTC	C	61701	Vocational Certificate in Hairdressing	2	0	80
MMI	C	0651	Craft Cert. in Basic Clock & Watch Studies	1	40	40
MMI	C	0657	Craft Cert. in Basic Optics	1	40	40
OT	C	01701	Cert. in Vocational Studies (Services)	2	940	900
OT	C	01702	Cert. in Vocational Studies (Engineering)	2	280	320
			Full-time Craft Level Courses Total:		1420	1380
AS	H		HD in Biotechnology	3	44	40
AS	H		HD in Environmental Technology	3	44	40
AS	H		HD in Food Science and Technology	3	44	40
AS	H		HD in Safety and Health	3	22	22
AS	H		HD in Pharmaceutical Technology	3	44	40
AS	H		HD in Pharmaceutical Tech. in Chinese Medicine	3	0	40
AS	H		HD in Analytical Science and Technology	3	44	40
AS	H	11309	HD in Health Services Management	3	0	24
BA	H	21301	HD in Accountancy	3	110	110
BA	H	21302	HD in Business Information Systems	3	100	80
BA	H	21303	HD in Insurance	3	40	0
BA	H	21304	HD in Transport & Logistics Studies	3	80	80
BA	H	21305	HD in Sales & Marketing	3	40	40
BA	H	21306	HD in Corporate Administration	3	60	0
BA	H	21309	HD in Business Administration	3	0	40
BA	H	21310	HD in Purchasing & Supply Management	3	40	40
BA	H	21313	HD in Global & Electronic Business Operations	3	40	40
BA	H	21316	HD in Corporate Administration & Systems	3	0	40
BA	H	21317	HD in Business Promotion & Event Management	3	0	42
BA	H	21318	HD in Financial Services Management	3	0	40
CC	H	31301	Higher Diploma in Child Care and Education	3	0	40
CM	H		HD in Computer Systems Administration	3	80	80
CM	H		HD in Information Systems Development	3	88	80
CM	H		HD in Network Applications	3	88	40
CM	H		HD in Software Engineering	3	80	80
CM	H		HD in Web-based Technology for Business	3	189	200
CM	H		HD in Applied Statistics and Computing	3	60	60
CM	H	41304	HD in Telecommunications & Networking	3	0	80
CM	H	41311	HD in Internet Computing and Applications	3	0	40
CN	H	51301	HD in Civil Engineering	3	80	80
CN	H	51302	HD in Structural Engineering	3	40	40
DPTC	H	61322	HD in Printing & Computer Imaging	3	40	40
DPTC	H	61323	HD in Digital Media	3	40	40

Discipline	Level	Course No.	Course Title	Duration (Year)	2000/2001	2001/2002 (Planned)
					Year-1	Year-1
EE	H		HD in Electronic & Communications Eng.	3	80	60
EE	H		HD in Electrical Engineering	3	80	80
EE	H		HD in Computer & Information Eng.	3	80	60
EE	H	71303	HD in Telecommunications Engineering	3	80	0
EE	H	71305	HD in Internet & Multimedia Engineering	3	0	40
HoSTS	H		HD in Hotel & Catering	3	84	80
HoSTS	H		HD in Travel & Tourism	3	63	60
MMI	H		HD in Mechanical Engineering	3	60	60
MMI	H		HD in Building Services Engineering	3	80	80
MMI	H		HD in Maritime Technology & Management	3	20	20
MMI	H		HD in Industrial Eng. & Information Management	3	80	40
MMI	H		HD in Product Eng. Design & Technology Management	3	80	40
MMI	H		HD in Manufacturing Engineering	3	100	60
MMI	H		HD in Manufacturing Engineering Management	3	40	40
MMI	H	91305	HD in Automotive Engineering	3	0	80
MMI	H	91375	HD in Industrial Information Technology	3	0	40
			Full-time Higher Technician Level Courses Total:		2464	2578
DPTC	H/T	61111	Design	1	360	360
			Full-time Subject Group Total:		360	360
AS	T		Dip. in Chemical Technology	2	80	80
AS	T		Dip. in Environmental Technology	2	40	40
BA	T		Dip. in Accountancy	2	520	480
BA	T		Dip. in Business Information Systems	2	160	240
BA	T		Dip. in Insurance	2	40	0
BA	T		Dip. in Transport and Logistics Studies	2	40	40
BA	T		Dip. in Sales and Marketing	2	80	80
BA	T		Dip. in Corporate Administration	2	160	200
BA	T		Dip. in Import/Export Studies	2	80	80
BA	T		Dip. in China Business Practices	2	80	80
BA	T		Dip. in Business Administration	2	200	200
BA	T		Dip. in Purchasing & Supply	2	0	0
BA	T		Dip. in Executive Secretarial Studies	2	160	80
BA	T		Dip. in Secretarial Administration	2	320	200
BA	T	21218	Dip. In Financial Services Management	2	0	40
CC	T		Diploma in Child Care and Education	2	120	120
CC	T		Cert. in Child Care	1	40	0
CM	T		Dip. in Computer Systems Administration	2	160	160
CM	T		Dip. in Information Systems Development	2	80	80
CM	T		Dip. in Network Applications	2	80	80
CM	T		Dip. in Software Engineering	2	160	160
CM	T		Dip. in Web-based Technology for Business	2	120	120
CM	T		Dip. in Commercial Computing Applications	2	80	80
CN	T	51201	Diploma in Civil Engineering	2	160	160
CN	T	51203	Diploma in Building Studies	2	120	120
DPTC	T		Dip. in Fashion & Textile Merchandising	2	120	120

Discipline	Level	Course No.	Course Title	Duration (Year)	2000/2001	2001/2002 (Planned)
					Year-1	Year-1
DPTC	T		Dip. in Fashion & Clothing Design	2	80	80
DPTC	T		Dip. in Comp. Applications for Textiles & Clothing	2	80	80
DPTC	T	61225	Dip. in Printing & Computer Imaging	2	60	60
DPTC	T	61226	Dip. in Digital Media	2	60	60
EE	T		Dip. in Electronic & Communications Eng.	2	160	120
EE	T		Dip. in Electrical Engineering	2	160	200
EE	T		Dip. in Computer & Information Engineering	2	160	200
EE	T		Dip. in Telecommunications Engineering	2	200	200
EE	T	71205	Dip. in Internet & Multimedia Engineering	2	0	40
HoSTS	T		Dip. in Hotel & Catering	2	84	80
HoSTS	T		Dip. in Travel & Tourism	2	63	60
HoSTS	T		Dip. in Leisure Studies	2	40	40
HoSTS	T		Dip. in Hotel Chinese Catering Operations	2	60	60
HoSTS	T		VC in Food Production	1	39	39
HoSTS	T		VC in Inbound Travel Operations	1	39	39
HoSTS	T		VC in Food & Beverage Service	1	39	39
HoSTS	T		VC in Outbound Travel Operations	1	39	39
HoSTS	T		VC in Front Office Operations	1	39	39
HoSTS	T		VC in Accommodation Operations	1	39	39
HoSTS	T		Vocational Cert. in Bakery & Flour Confectionery	1	39	39
MMI	T		Dip. in Mechanical Engineering	2	80	80
MMI	T		Dip. in Building Services Engineering	2	160	160
MMI	T		Dip. in Maritime Technology & Management	2	20	0
MMI	T		Dip. in Automotive Engineering	2	80	0
MMI	T		Dip. in Industrial Eng. & Information Management	2	80	80
MMI	T		Dip. in Product Eng. Design & Technology Management	2	80	80
MMI	T		Dip. in Manufacturing Engineering	2	100	120
MMI	T		Dip. in Manufacturing Engineering Management	2	40	0
MMI	T		Dip. in Maritime Studies	2	25	25
MMI	T	91272	Dip. in Ophthalmic Dispensing	2	0	40
OT	T	01601B	Foundation Diploma (Business Stream)	1	2044	2040
OT	T	01601T	Foundation Diploma (Technical Stream)	1	956	1160
			Full-time Technician Level Courses Total:		8345	8378
			All Full-time Courses Total:		12589	12696

Keys : AS = Applied Science
 BA = Business Administration
 CC = Child Care
 CM = Computing and Mathematics
 CN = Construction
 DPTC = Design, Printing, Textile and Clothing
 EE = Electronic and Electrical Engineering
 HoSTS = Hotel and Tourism Studies
 MMI = Mechanical, Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering

OT = Others
H = Higher Technician
T = Technician
C = Craft
Dip. = Diploma
HD = Higher Diploma
Cert. = Certificate
VC = Vocational Certificate

Bureau Serial No.

EMB050

Question Serial No.

1397

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead :
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme: (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council – Part (Policy Area 8 :
Employment)

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02" :

- (a) Is the Vocational English Centre funded by the Workplace English Campaign? If yes, what is the amount? Where will the centre be? Will the courses be utilizing the same teachers, classrooms and equipment of the VTC? What is the target training capacity of the Vocational English Centre in the coming year?
- (b) Please provide details for the item of "Development of advanced IT Projects". What is its relation to teaching work?
- (c) What is the allocation for participating in the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and Springboard Programme? Will the courses be utilizing the same teachers, classrooms and equipment of the VTC? What are the respective target training capacity of the two programmes?
- (d) How many additional training places in information technology will be provided? Is there a need for additional resources and teaching staff? If there is a need for additional staff, will they be employed on permanent terms or temporary contracts?
- (e) For the management courses organised for the small and medium enterprises, who will provide the instructors and venues, the VTC or the enterprises themselves? Do the courses have standardized contents or tailor-made contents for individual enterprises?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The Vocational English Centre is supported by the VTC's own recurrent funding. The administrative unit of the Centre will be located in the Vocational Training Council (VTC) Tower, while the actual provision of training courses will be in leased premises. Part-time teachers will be recruited for the actual provision of courses. In 2001/2002, the Centre plans to offer 15 self-financing courses with about 800 training places.
- (b) To ensure that its IT-related training is up-to-date with the needs of the industry and to allow its teaching faculty to keep abreast of the latest technology trends, the VTC aims to provide advanced IT projects in collaboration with the industry. These projects cover two

broad categories : IT-related training courses, seminars and workshops and joint new technology application/adaptation projects. In 2001-02, the VTC plans to offer advanced IT projects in the following areas : networking, database, telecommunications and Internet technology, and Object Oriented Technology.

- (c) \$68 million has been earmarked for Project Springboard in 2001-02, the bulk (about \$60 million) of which will be used for reimbursing 30% of tuition fees to students who satisfactorily complete the courses. The balance will be used to fund a variety of student support programmes, such as the development of a joint registration system, publicity programmes and the development of self-learning packages and online programmes. The ten course providers, including VTC, will run the courses on a self-financing basis. In 2001-02, 500 full-time and 200 part-time places are tentatively planned by the VTC. No recurrent subvention is given for the provision of the training courses under the Project Springboard.

The Youth Pre-employment Training Programme, is administered by the Labour Department and a total provision of \$110 million has been earmarked for the Programme in 2001-02. Under the Programme, modular training courses are provided by 70 training bodies, including the VTC. There is no pre-determined number of training places offered by different training bodies. The actual disbursement of funds to training bodies is dependent on the level of services provided by individual training bodies.

- (d) There will be around 7.5% (760) increase in training places for regular courses provided by ITTDC of the VTC in 2001/02. The increased training workload will be absorbed through resource optimization, productivity enhancement and employing temporary training officers from industry.
- (e) The Management Development Centre of Hong Kong (MDC) runs a variety of training courses targeted at the SMEs. The MDC provides speakers and venues for approximately 80% of total SME-related training activities. For selected activities jointly organised with interest groups, formed by people who have common business interests as experience sharing team, the groups may identify speakers and venues on their own.

The majority of MDC courses are in the form of short seminars and workshops. Some of them are tailor-made courses organised according to the prevailing market needs of SMEs. Some examples are Talk on WTO for SMEs, Creativity Workshop for SMEs, Business Opportunity Forum and Millennium Entrepreneurial Programme.

MDC also offers a number of standard courses such as Business Starter Programme, Practical China Taxation, Owner Manager Programme, Best Logistics Practices in Hong Kong and Intellectual Property. The duration of these courses is longer and they are provided on a regular basis in the light of market demands.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Fanny Law
Post Title	Secretary for Education and Manpower
Date	20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB051

Question Serial No.

1400

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 177 – Subventions : Subhead :No. & title
 Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council – Part (Policy Area 8 : Employment

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Why is the number of trades which have open trade tests (17) reduced by 15 in the 2002/01 revised estimates as compared to (32) trades of 1999/2000?

Asked by : The Hon Chan Kwok-keung

Reply : In 2000/01, the responsibility for conducting trade testing in 15 construction-related trades was transferred from the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to the Construction Industry Training Authority. As a result, the number of trades with testing organised by the VTC was reduced from 32 to 17.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____

Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____

19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB052

Question Serial No.

1401

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead :
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme: (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council – Part (Policy Area 8 :
Employment)

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The completion rate of trainees of pre-employment courses in 1999/2000 was 84%. It is revised to 70% in the 2000/01 revised estimates, and remains unchanged for the year of 2001/02. What is the reason for the fall? Does the VTC have any plan to hike up the percentage? If yes, what are the measures? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Prior to 1999/2000, the average completion rate for pre-employment courses was about 70%. In 1999/2000, the completion rate rose to 84%, largely because of the enrollment of a considerable number of Secondary 5 school-leavers on the craft courses. The attrition rate of these Secondary 5 school leavers was generally found to be lower than Secondary 3 school leavers. As from 2000/01, the policy is to fill at least two-thirds of the craft level training places by Secondary 3 school leavers. A completion rate of 70% in 2000/01 and in 2001/02 is thus projected.

2. Having regard to the new admission policy and the higher attrition rate of Secondary 3 school leavers, the VTC will enhance counselling services as well as closely monitor the course provision with a view to improving the overall completion rate for these courses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 053

Question Serial No.

1402

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead :
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council – Part
(Policy Area 8 : Employment)

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Should the modernization of training and development centres come under the recurrent or non-recurrent account? What is the provision in 2001/02? Please list out the equipment involved and the courses in which they will be used?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : A sum of \$19 million has been earmarked in the Capital Account Subheads 871 and 976 for modernising the equipment in the training and development centres of the Vocational Training Council. The equipment will be utilised for training in the fields of automobile, electrical, electronic design technology, electronics, financial services, jewellery, machine shop and metal works, plastics and tooling technology, printing, seamen's training, textile, welding, hospitality industry.

2. The equipment will be used in providing basic pre-employment training, in-service training as well as in the conduct of trade testing/assessment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB054

Question Serial No.

1403

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Subhead :
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Programme : (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council – Part
(Policy Area 8 : Employment)

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the allocation for placement of trainees in 2001/02? What is the rate for
successful placement of trainees in 2000/01?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

- (i) A total sum of \$13.4 million has been earmarked by the Vocational Training Council in 2001-02 to provide job placement assistance for its graduates. The student placement services cover graduates from VTC's training centres as well as the VTC's Institute of Vocational Education.
- (ii) Students in their final year of study in 2000/01 will graduate in July 2001 and the job placement statistics will be available in early 2002. In the academic year 1999/2000, 3,104 trainees completed training in VTC's training centres. About 92% of the economically active trainees were successfully placed. Of those in employment, 95% were in jobs related to their training at the training centres. In the same academic year, 6,458 students completed Higher Diploma, Diploma and Certificate studies in the Institute of Vocational Education, of whom 4,937 were economically active. About 96% of those economically active Higher Diploma graduates and 88% of the economically active Diploma/Certificate graduates were successfully placed into jobs

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB055

Question Serial No.

1464

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions : Non-Departmental Public Bodies Subhead : 520, 871, 976 Vocational Training Council

Programme : (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council - Part

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please give your rationale for the following targets and indicators:

- (a) The number of trades with trade testing in 2000/01 (revised estimate) is 17 and 18 in 2001/02 (plan), both are much lower when compared with the 32 trades in 1999/2000, what are the reasons?
- (b) The completion rates for pre-employment courses in 2000/01 (revised estimate) and 2001/02 (plan) are both 70%, showing a decrease when compared with the actual rate of 84% in 1999/2000, what are the reasons?
- (c) The numbers of inspection of establishments employing registered apprentices in 2000/01 (revised estimate) and 2001/02 (plan) are both 30 000, showing a decrease when compared with the actual number of 36 609 inspections in 1999/2000, what are the reasons?
- (d) The numbers of times advice given to employers on how to improve apprenticeship training in 2000/01 (revised estimate) and 2001/02(plan) are both 4 500, less than half of that in 1999/2000, what are the reasons?
- (e) The numbers of apprentice training vacancies in 2000/01 (revised estimate) and 2001/02 (plan) are both 3 000, showing an increase over the actual number of 1 827 in 1999/2000, what are the reasons? What are the staffing and financial implications?
- (f) The numbers of newly registered apprentices in 2000/01 (revised estimate) and 2001/02 (plan) are both 2 800, showing an increase over the actual number of 2 474 in 1999/2000, what are the reasons? What are the staffing and financial implications?

Asked by : Hon CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) In 2000/01, the administration of craft trade testing for 15 construction-related trades was transferred from the Vocational Training Council to the Construction Industry Training Authority. In 2001/02, the Vocational Training Council will introduce trade testing for a new trade (Chinese cuisine), thereby increasing the number of craft trade testing from 17 to 18.
- (b) Prior to 1999/2000, the average completion rate for pre-employment courses was about 70%. In 1999/2000, the completion rate rose to 84% because of the enrollment of a considerable number of Secondary 5 students on the craft courses. The attrition rate of these Secondary 5 students was generally lower than Secondary 3 students. As from 2000/01, the policy is to fill at least two-thirds of the craft course places by Secondary 3 students. A completion rate of 70% is thus projected for both 2000/01 and 2001/02. The VTC plans to enhance its counseling services as well as closely monitor the course provision with a view to improving the overall completion rate for these courses.
- (c)&(d) The decrease in the number of inspections and the number of times advice given to employers reflects a reduction in the total number of registered apprentices during the past 3 years, as follows :

<u>31/8/98</u>	<u>31/8/99</u>	<u>31/8/00</u>	<u>mid-March 01</u>
6951	6424	5839	5343

With fewer registered apprentices, the number of inspection visits required is also reduced.

The VTC has also streamlined the operation of the Apprenticeship Office with a view to enhancing its efficiency. In the past, inspection visits served several purposes, including promotion and publicity, enforcement, monitoring progress of apprentices, and checking the adequacy of curriculum and facilities, etc. As from 2000/01, inspection visits focused on monitoring the progress of the apprentices. Procedures have been simplified, making it more user-friendly and easier for the employers and apprentices to understand, and hence less requirement for advice. Promotion and publicity are carried out centrally and directed at target employers. The number of inspectors, and the number of inspection visits were reduced in 2000/01, but the quality of service was maintained.

- (e)&(f) An increase in both apprentice vacancies and newly registered apprentices is anticipated because of improvement in the economy in 2000-01 which is expected to continue into 2001-02. After a few years of low recruitment, there would be pent-up demand for new recruits. Furthermore, one to two additional trades are expected to be designated under the Apprenticeship Ordinance.

The Apprenticeship Unit will cope with the increased workload within the existing resources through increased efficiency.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB056

Question Serial No.

1465

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 177 Subventions :
Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Subhead : 520, 871, 976 Vocational Training
Council

Programme : (1) Subvention : Vocational Training Council - Part

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide further information on the following matters requiring special attention in 2001-02:

- (a) the Vocational Training Council (VTC) will modernise the equipment in training and development centres. What are the details? What is the financial implication?
- (b) regarding the consultancy review of the trade testing and certification system, what are the details? What will be the staffing and financial implications?
- (c) how many courses on IT and financial services training does the VTC plan to organize in 2001-02 and how many places will these courses provide? What are the staffing and financial implications?

Asked by : Hon CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) A sum of \$19 million has been earmarked in the Capital Account for modernising the equipment in the training and development centres of the Vocational Training Council. The equipment will be used in providing basic pre-employment training, in-service training, and in conducting trade testing/assessment in the fields of automobile, electrical, electronic design technology, electronics, financial services, jewellery, machine shop and metal works, plastics and tooling technology, printing, seamen's training, textile, welding, hospitality industry.
- (b) The VTC commissioned in 1999/2000 a consultancy to review the trade testing and certification system in Hong Kong. The consultant has now completed its work and has submitted its report to the Committee on Apprenticeship and Trade Testing of the VTC. Consultation with VTC's training boards, employers' associations, trade unions and other concerned organizations will be conducted before a final decision is taken on

the recommendations of the consultancy.

The consultancy study costed \$0.8 million and has been completed. The staffing and financial implications arising from the consultancy review will depend on the recommendations eventually accepted and implemented.

(c) The number of courses and training places on IT and financial services training the VTC plans to organise in 2001-02 are as follows :

(i) Financial Services Development Centre (FSDC)

- number of training places : 8,355
- number of class : 386 classes of 163 different types of courses
- expenditure : about \$21 million
- staff : 21 full-time staff, together with a team of some 50 part-time staff

(ii) Information Technology Training & Development Centre (ITTDC)

For regular courses (including in-service training) and Youth Pre-employment Training Programme in 2001-02, the projection is as follows :

- number of training places : 11,856
- number of classes : 662 classes of around 100 different types of courses
- expenditure : \$35 million
- staffing : 32 full-time staff, several temporary administration staff and a team of 80 part-time training officers and technicians from industry.

For IT Assistant Training in 2001-02 for which separate funding has been provided, the estimation is as follows :

- number of training places : 1,400
- number of classes : around 55
- expenditure : \$19.38 million
- staffing : Full-time staff are engaged in the supervision of placement officers, undertaking of curriculum development and project management. Teaching is done mainly by outside providers under close monitoring of VTC.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title _____ Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB057

Question Serial No.

0006

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead : 320–Code of Aid for Special Schools

Programme : 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question :
- a. Why do school places (11 743) provided by the Government in special, practical and skills opportunity schools in the coming school year far exceed the total number of students (10 248) estimated by these schools?
 - b. Have resources saved as a result of surplus school places been taken into account in the increased provision under Subhead 320?

Asked by : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply :

- (a) There are 62 special schools catering for children with special educational needs, including a hospital school, schools for social development, and schools for the visually impaired, hearing impaired, physically handicapped or mentally handicapped. There are also four practical schools and seven skills opportunity schools. These schools operate a wide range of education levels (primary and secondary) in various regions to meet local demand. In practice, it is not possible to fill each class at every level in these special schools, and hence there is some difference in the projected number of school places and enrolment.
- (b) The operating capacity and expected enrolment in special, practical and skills opportunity schools for 2000/01 and 2001/02 are –

	<u>Operating Capacity</u>	<u>Expected Enrolment</u>
2000/01	11 587	10 127
2001/02	11 743 (↑ 1.4%)	10 248 (↑ 1.2%)

The proposed increase in financial provision of \$46M takes into account the additional operating classes and salary increments of staff.

Signature

Name in Block Letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB059

Question Serial No.

0008

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : According to the Estimates of Expenditure, the Government will provide 170 additional teachers to promote the Extensive Reading Schemes in primary schools. However, no provision has been earmarked for the purchase of additional library books. Please explain.

Asked by : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply :

In order to enhance the library services and to coordinate the implementation of different kinds of reading schemes in primary schools, aided and government primary schools are provided with additional teachers to serve as teacher-librarians. As for funding for the purchase of library books, the provisions are as follows :

- For a new aided primary school, the initial library fund of \$150,000 comes from the school sponsor's contribution.
- For existing schools with new central libraries, a one-off initial library grant under the School Improvement Programme project vote, ranging from \$60,000 to \$150,000 depending on the number of classes, is provided to build up the basic collection.
- Under the Chinese and English Extensive Reading Schemes, each school is provided with the English and Chinese Extensive Reading Grants for four years starting from the 1997-98 school year. The Grants are calculated at a total of \$6,500 per annum for schools with 12 or less classes, or \$13,000 per annum for schools with more than 12 classes.
- In addition, recurrent resources - about \$36,000 per annum for a school with 24 classes or \$45,000 per annum for a school with 30 classes - are provided to aided primary schools under the Operating Expenses Block Grant and \$35 per pupil per annum are provided to government primary schools under the Subject and Curriculum Block Grant to enrich their library collections.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB060

Question Serial No.

0009

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) : 489 Miscellaneous Educational Services

Programme : (5) Other Direct Services and Subvention

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The number of newly arrived children and young people enrolled in the Induction Programme and Initiation Programme has increased by 29%, but the provision for Subhead 491, which includes funds for other purposes, shows an increase of 14.4% only. Please explain why there is a difference between the two rates of increase. Please give a breakdown of the various items of expenditure under Subhead 491.

Asked by : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply :

The financial provision for Induction Programme and Initiation Programme for newly arrived children (NAC) is included in Subhead 489. The draft estimate for Subhead 489 for 2001-02 comprises the following items –

	<u>Estimated Expenditure</u>
	\$'000
Adult Education Services	17,827
Induction Programme and Initiation Programme for NAC	24,378
Miscellaneous Educational Services ^[Note]	<u>46,419</u>
Total :	<u>88,624</u>

The estimated expenditure for Induction Programme and Initiation Programme for 2000-01 and 2001-02 are \$18.620M and \$24.378M respectively. The increase of 31% in funding for 2001-02 is sufficient to meet the required expenditure for 13,000 (representing an increase of 29% over the last year) NAC estimated to participate in these Programmes. The overall provision of Subhead 489 does not increase by the same percentage because the increase in requirements for other items is smaller.

[Note] Include grants for organizations such as Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation, Hong Kong Society for the Blind etc. and educational programmes such as Home-School Co-operation Scheme and Drug Abusers Programme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB061

Question Serial No.

0010

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40-Education Department Subhead : 326-Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme

Programme : 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The number of pupils in kindergartens under the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme(KSS) only shows an increase of 50, which is less than 0.1%. Moreover, only 6 more kindergartens joined the KSS. But the provision for the KSS under Subhead 326 has been increased by 19.6%. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply : Payments in respect of the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme (KSS) are made in two instalments, based on the number of operating classes as at 15 September and 15 February. With the current admission age for kindergartens set at 3 years, the first KSS payments would not include students who were admitted after 15 September because of the age factor. The subsidies for classes to cater for students admitted between 16 September and 15 February are reflected in the second instalment.

With effect from the 2001/02 school year, the admission age will be lowered to cater for children aged 2 years 8 months or above as at 31 August. While this change should not affect the total number of students attending kindergartens during the school year, it is estimated that some 23 000 children aged between 2 years 8 months and 2 years 11 months as at 31 August will be able to start schooling earlier. In other

words, some 1 500 classes will start schooling earlier, with about 600 of them covered by the KSS. Additional financial provision is required to cover the increased payments in the first instalment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB062

Question Serial No.

0183

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 710 Computerisation

Subhead (No. & title) : A018XN

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : With regard to Item A018XN, please explain in detail the nature and objectives of the items involved under the Personnel Information Management System.

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

At present, personnel data of ED staff (around 6,500) are kept on separate computers or manually and scattered across different divisions. For example, the Training Division maintains training records on staff while the Personnel Division keeps records on staff's development needs. However, effective human resource management, which covers manpower planning, staff development and performance management etc, requires an integrated approach. ED therefore proposes to put in place a central computerised personnel information system to support more effective human resource management. The Department plans to seek the necessary funding approval of the Finance Committee in the 2001-02 financial year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB063

Question Serial No.

0304

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 40 – Education Department Subhead:

Programme: 4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Compared with last year, the number of non-directorate posts of the Education Department in 2001-02 has been reduced by 81. Please explain in detail.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Details of the net reduction of non-directorate establishment by 81 posts for the 2001-02 Estimates are as follows –

Description of Project	No. of Posts (+)/(-)
Additional teachers for development of integrated education for children with special needs in government schools	+26
Additional teachers to implement Extensive Reading Schemes and enhance school library service in government primary schools	+12
Additional teachers for government primary schools converting to whole-day operation	+10
Additional teachers for implementation of the Medium of Instruction Guidance in government secondary schools	+2

Contracting out of janitor and clerical services in government schools to provide greater funding and management flexibility to schools -110

Outsourcing of typing and statistical services to enhance productivity -21

Net deletion -81

Signature

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB064

Question Serial No.

0305

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Why is there only one primary school under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) in the 2000/01 school year? Is that school a newly established school or an existing school transferred to DSS? Please give details of the estimated three primary schools under DSS for the 2001/02 school year.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Government decided to allow aided primary schools to join the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) from the 2000/01 school year. In response to the first round of invitation, two existing aided primary schools applied for admission to the DSS but only one was approved to join the Scheme in the 2000/01 school year.

For the 2001/02 school year, one new DSS primary school is expected to start operation using government-built premises in Tin Shui Wai, while one existing aided primary school has applied to join the Scheme. If the latter's application is successful, there will be a total of 3 DSS primary schools in the 2001/02 school year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB065

Question Serial No.

0306

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Will the Government adopt the policy of providing one Student Guidance Officer/Teacher for each school? If so, what will be the additional manpower and funds required? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Government has over the years been improving the ratio of pupils to Student Guidance Officers/Teachers, from 2500:1 in 1992/93 to 2250:1 in 1997/98, 2000:1 in 1998/99 and 1680:1 in 1999/2000. We are now reviewing the student guidance service in primary schools. The proposal of one SGO/SGT for each primary school will be considered among other alternatives to improve the service.

Signature

Name in Block Letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB066

Question Serial No.

0307

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

How many primary schools have been provided with IT co-ordinators in the past few years?
How many primary schools will be provided with IT co-ordinators in the 2001/02 school year?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Under the five-year strategy on IT in education launched in November 1998, the Government implements an IT co-ordinator scheme to provide an IT co-ordinator post to 250 schools which are more IT-ready. In the 1999/2000 school year, a total of 120 schools were each provided with the post for two years. A further 130 schools were provided with the post in the 2000/01 school year. Amongst these 250 schools, 104 schools are primary schools. In addition, another ten primary schools are provided with the post under the IT-pilot scheme, making a total of 114 primary schools.

Furthermore, the Quality Education Fund (QEF) approved a funding application from ED in early 2000 to provide another 50 primary schools with an IT co-ordinator post for two years starting from the 2000/01 school year. In December 2000, ED submitted another application to QEF to provide the remaining 560-odd primary schools with IT co-ordinators for one year starting from the 2001/02 school year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB067

Question Serial No.

0308

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
4002 Secondary Education
4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The teacher wastage rate of practical schools is three times higher than that of special schools and skills opportunity schools. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Since the total number of teachers in practical schools is small, even a few teachers leaving the service would result in a relatively significant wastage rate. In the 1999/2000 school year, there was a wastage of only 13 teachers from the 4 practical schools. Their reasons for leaving are as follows :

<u>Reasons</u>	<u>No. of Teachers</u>
(a) Retirement	2
(b) Migration	2
(c) Taking up employment outside the teaching profession	1
(d) Other reasons	2
(e) Unknown	<u>6</u>
Total	<u>13</u>

Signature

Name in Block Letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB068

Question Serial No.

0309

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
 4002 Secondary Education
 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Schools are encouraged to introduce school-based gifted development programmes, what are the details? Are there any financial commitment and supporting measures earmarked for such programmes?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

School-based gifted development programmes are part of the overall strategy to help develop gifted children to their full potential. These programmes aim to build up schools' capacity to identify such children, to be aware of their needs, to provide enrichment programmes, to network with other partners and resources, and to work with the Government in nurturing the exceptionally gifted children. These programmes are supported by the Cluster School Gifted Project (a pilot project) team which provides consultation services to these schools, writes up curriculum materials, provides training to teachers, plans pull-out programmes with the school teachers and disseminates curriculum materials on the web. The team will also collate enriched curriculum materials and exemplars on higher order thinking, creativity and personal-social development to be incorporated into the curriculum.

Resources for these supportive measures are met by a project grant of \$10M from the Quality Education Fund to pilot the school-based programmes. Schools are also encouraged to make use of the Capacity Enhancement Grant introduced with effect from the 2000/01 school year to devise school-based strategies to cope with the needs of their gifted students.

In addition, the Government has also earmarked \$10M in 2001-02 for the further development of gifted education.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB069

Question Serial No.

0310

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

What progress has been made in the use of IT in education in special schools, practical schools and skills opportunity schools at present? What are the measures taken to enhance the use of IT in teaching and learning in these schools?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

At present, all special schools, practical schools and skills opportunity schools are each, on average, provided with 30 computers. Except for one school under re-provisioning, all schools have received cash grants to install a local area network to connect computers in the library, staff rooms and computer rooms in schools, and to connect to the Internet through leased lines or broadband. Contract technical support services have also been made available to all these schools starting from February 2000 to keep the IT facilities in good working order. In addition, 14 schools have each been provided with the IT co-ordinator post for two years under an IT co-ordinator scheme of Education Department (ED); another 10 schools are each provided with the post for two years with the funding support of the Quality Education Fund. Furthermore, all these schools have received cash grants to arrange IT training for their teachers and they are expected to reach the basic IT competency level by the end of the 2000/01 school year.

The following are the measures aimed at enhancing the use of IT in teaching and learning in these schools:

- A Project named “*Computer Education in Special Schools Project*” assists the special schools to implement computer-assisted learning projects and/or rehabilitation projects. ED provides curriculum support. Curriculum grants (\$5000 per school per annum) are

provided for the schools to purchase educational software packages and consumable items.

- Furthermore, schools with special needs may apply for additional funding support from the ED. For example, extra funding was provided to Ebenezer School for the procurement of special assistive devices so that the school can act as a resource centre and offer consultative, advisory and training services to both the visually impaired children and their parents.
- ED is providing on-site support to these schools for the promotion of IT in education. This includes a series of school-based teacher training and experience sharing sessions on topics such as Internet connectivity and security, the use of Linux Operating System in the school network and the collection and sharing of educational resources that are specific to children with special education needs.
- ED develops from time to time exemplar software packages and web-based resource materials on the use of IT in teaching and learning for special schools and schools offering integrated education at classroom level.
- The Hong Kong Education City will collaborate with the Special Education Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Special Schools Council to offer web-based teaching and learning resources and related information of special schools.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB070

Question Serial No.

0311

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead : 320 – Code of Aid for Special
Schools

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
4002 Secondary Education
4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Why is the provision for special education slightly increased by only 3.2%
in the 2001/02 school year? How much funds have been earmarked for
integrated education and gifted education respectively?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The 3.2% increase in the allocation of funds for special education in the 2001-02 financial year is mainly due to salary increments for existing staff in schools, increased provision for Native-speaking English teacher in practical schools, skills opportunity schools and the secondary section of special schools, increased provision for maintenance and repairs, disbursement of the Transition Furniture and Equipment Grant, and upgrading of teaching posts to graduate status in the primary section of special schools.

Our policy is to help disabled children integrate into ordinary schools whenever possible. The Education Department provides a wide range of support services, as set out in the Annex, to these children who are attending ordinary schools. However, we do not have a breakdown of the resources for these services.

At present, there are 40 schools (31 primary and 9 secondary) adopting the whole-school approach in supporting children with hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical handicap, mild grade mental handicap or autistic disorder with average intelligence. The funding earmarked for the programme in 2000-01 is \$22M and will increase by \$14.4M in 2001-02 to promote the whole-school approach to integration in another 25 schools (18 primary and 7 secondary).

Schools not participating in the above programme may apply for an incidental charges grant of \$700 per year for each disabled pupil (i.e. with hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical handicap, mild grade mental handicap or autistic disorder with average intelligence) admitted.

Recurrent expenditure on developing resource packages and the Curriculum Guide on Gifted Education, providing enrichment programmes for gifted children and encouraging schools to start school-based gifted development programmes will amount to \$8.2M for 2001/02. The Quality Education Fund has also allocated a total of \$10M for piloting gifted education programmes in schools during the 2000/01 and 2001/02 school years. Moreover, we have earmarked \$10M in 2001/02 for support measures for the exceptionally gifted students.

Signature

Name in Block Letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 19 March 2001

Services for Pupils with Disabilities in Ordinary Schools

1. Support Services for Pupils with Hearing Impairment

1.1 Special Classes for hearing-impaired pupils

Severely and profoundly hearing-impaired pupils who have acquired some basic language and communication skills but still have serious difficulties following the regular curriculum attend special classes with a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:10. They attend academic subject lessons, speech and auditory training in a separate class with special education teachers but mix with their hearing peers in all other cultural subjects and social activities.

1.2 Peripatetic Advisory Service

Pupils with moderate to profound hearing impairment and who have acquired sufficient language skills are integrated in the ordinary classes. Inspectors (1:100 pupils) from the Education Department visit schools to advise teachers and social workers on how to support these pupils.

1.3 Supportive Remedial Service

Pupils who are served by the Peripatetic Advisory Service but are grossly backward (by two years or more) in their academic attainment are also given Supportive Remedial Service provided by special schools for the deaf. Additional teachers for this service are provided at the ratio of 1:20 for primary school pupils and 1: 10 for secondary school pupils.

1.4 Professional advice

Audiologists of the Education Department also provide advice to pupils, teachers and parents on the use of hearing aids, ear moulds, special seating arrangements in the ordinary classroom and make recommendations on appropriate educational placement.

2. Support Services for Pupils with Visual Impairment

2.1 Special classes for visually-impaired pupils

Pupils are provided with special equipment to facilitate their learning, e.g. closed circuit television, magnifiers and special lights. They attend academic subject lessons in a special class with a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:15 and integrate with their sighted peers for other cultural subjects and social activities.

2.2 Programme for blind integrators

Visually-impaired pupils in ordinary schools are supported by a visiting resource teacher from a special school for the visually-impaired. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:8. The resource teachers advise ordinary teachers on teaching strategies, and help to prepare supplementary teaching materials such as Braille books and notes, Braille test/examination papers, and recorded tapes etc. They also pay weekly/ bi-weekly school visits to advise the pupils on the use of technical aids.

2.3 Centralized Braille Production Centre

Visually-impaired pupils can use the Braille reading materials produced by the Centralized Braille Production Centre (of the Hong Kong Society for the Blind) subvented by the Education Department.

2.4 Resource Help Service

Some visually-impaired integrators in ordinary schools are provided with Resource Help Service at the regional resource teaching centres. They receive small group remedial teaching on the three basic subjects and counselling on social adjustment once a week. Those who cannot come to the centres are visited by the resource teachers once every two weeks. Due advice to school heads, teachers and parents on the management of these pupils are given during the visits.

3. Support Services for Pupils with Physical Handicap

3.1 Resource Help Service

Physically handicapped pupils who are studying in ordinary schools but are backward in their basic subjects or have adjustment problems are visited by resource teachers from the Education Department

at their respective schools every fortnight. They may also attend centre-based classes once a week. Teaching in basic learning skills and guidance on their social adjustment are provided. Schools and parents are also advised on their management of the pupils. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:23.

4. Support Services for Pupils with Mild Mental Handicap

4.1 Intensive Remedial Teaching Programme

Pupils assessed to be intellectually at the top of mild grade mental handicap range usually remain in ordinary schools. They receive intensive remedial support in the three basic subjects under the Intensive Remedial Teaching Programme. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:15.

4.2 Resource Teaching Centre

Pupils who have learning problems but are attending schools without Resource Classes are supported at the Resource Teaching Centre outside school hours. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:45.

5. Support Services for Pupils with Autism and Average Intelligence

5.1 Adjustment Programme

Pupils with social adjustment problems in schools are supported at the Special Education Services Centres on a part-time or full-time basis, depending on the severity of their problems. Pupils are usually discharged from the Adjustment Programme when their problems subside. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:8 .

Bureau Serial No.

EMB071

Question Serial No.

0312

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
 4002 Secondary Education
 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please give the details of contracting out clerical and janitor services in government primary and secondary school. How much resources can be saved?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In line with the recommendations of the Education Commission Report No. 7 to provide greater funding and management flexibility to Government schools, a pilot scheme was first commissioned in 1997-98 to contract out the janitor service in 5 Government schools. In view of its success, the scheme was extended to cover clerical service in 1998-99 and made permanent in 1999-2000. The scheme is being implemented through natural wastage. Up to 2000/01 school year, 62 government secondary and primary schools have joined the scheme with 206 posts deleted.

The contracting out of the clerical/janitor services is a cost-neutral scheme. Under this scheme, Government schools are provided with a lump sum equivalent to the salary savings of the clerical/workman posts deleted from their establishment. The school can use this money flexibly according to their own operational needs. Any savings arising from the arrangement can be used to fund other school-based expenditure items, such as staff training, procurement of services and upgrading of equipment to enhance effectiveness in teaching and learning.

Signature

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB072

Question Serial No.

0317

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700-General other non-recurrent

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
 4002 Secondary Education
 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please inform the Council of the progress of asbestos investigation at school by providing the number of schools inspected and the number pending inspection, as well as the estimated expenditure on this item in the coming year.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Asbestos investigation for 340 school premises has been completed. Investigation for the remaining 581 school premises will be completed in 2001-02. The total expenditure for this item is estimated to be \$27.519M. Of this, \$8.872M is earmarked for 2001-02.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB073

Question Serial No.

0320

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) : 150 – Teacher Training

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
 4002 Secondary Education
 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : It is estimated that 44.4% of government and aided primary school teachers and 29% of public sector secondary school teachers will have attended systematic re-training courses, while 18.4% of special school teachers and 8.6% of practical school and skills opportunity school teachers will have attended formal re-training courses. Are the differences in percentages related with the distribution of resources? If so, what are the underlying principles? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply :

Systematic retraining courses are refresher courses for trained teachers of public sector schools with five or more years of service. They are only one of the many in-service teacher training courses available, which are public or self-funded. The quoted indicators therefore do not represent the whole picture of teachers pursuing continuous professional development, or the resources allocated for this purpose in different school levels/sectors.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB074

Question Serial No.

0321

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
4002 Secondary Education
4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Will the Government inform this Council the resource implications of promoting integrated education to the three programmes of special education, primary education and secondary education respectively?

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply :

Our policy is to help disabled children integrate into ordinary schools whenever possible. The Education Department provides a wide range of support services, as set out in the Annex, to these children who are attending ordinary schools. However, we do not have a breakdown of the resources for these services.

At present, there are 40 schools (31 primary and 9 secondary) adopting the whole-school approach in supporting children with hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical handicap, mild grade mental handicap or autistic disorder with average intelligence. The funding earmarked for the programme in 2000-01 is \$22M and will increase by \$14.4M in 2001-02 to promote the whole-school approach to integration in another 25 schools (18 primary and 7 secondary).

Schools not participating in the above programme may apply for an incidental charges grant of \$700 per year for each disabled pupil (i.e. with hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical handicap, mild grade mental handicap or autistic disorder with average intelligence) admitted.

Signature

Name in Block Letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 19 March 2001

Services for Pupils with Disabilities in Ordinary Schools

1. Support Services for Pupils with Hearing Impairment

1.1 Special Classes for hearing-impaired pupils

Severely and profoundly hearing-impaired pupils who have acquired some basic language and communication skills but still have serious difficulties following the regular curriculum attend special classes with a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:10. They attend academic subject lessons, speech and auditory training in a separate class with special education teachers but mix with their hearing peers in all other cultural subjects and social activities.

1.2 Peripatetic Advisory Service

Pupils with moderate to profound hearing impairment and who have acquired sufficient language skills are integrated in the ordinary classes. Inspectors (1:100 pupils) from the Education Department visit schools to advise teachers and social workers on how to support these pupils.

1.3 Supportive Remedial Service

Pupils who are served by the Peripatetic Advisory Service but are grossly backward (by two years or more) in their academic attainment are also given Supportive Remedial Service provided by special schools for the deaf. Additional teachers for this service are provided at the ratio of 1:20 for primary school pupils and 1: 10 for secondary school pupils.

1.4 Professional advice

Audiologists of the Education Department also provide advice to pupils, teachers and parents on the use of hearing aids, ear moulds, special seating arrangements in the ordinary classroom and make recommendations on appropriate educational placement.

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2.1 Special classes for visually-impaired pupils

Pupils are provided with special equipment to facilitate their learning, e.g. closed circuit television, magnifiers and special lights. They attend academic subject lessons in a special class with a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:15 and integrate with their sighted peers for other cultural subjects and social activities.

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2.3 Centralized Braille Production Centre

Visually-impaired pupils can use the Braille reading materials produced by the Centralized Braille Production Centre (of the Hong Kong Society for the Blind) subvented by the Education Department.

2.4 Resource Help Service

Some visually-impaired integrators in ordinary schools are provided with Resource Help Service at the regional resource teaching centres. They receive small group remedial teaching on the three basic subjects and counselling on social adjustment once a week. Those who cannot come to the centres are visited by the resource teachers once every two weeks. Due advice to school heads, teachers and parents on the management of these pupils are given during the visits.

3. Support Services for Pupils with Physical Handicap

3.1 Resource Help Service

Physically handicapped pupils who are studying in ordinary schools but are backward in their basic subjects or have adjustment problems are visited by resource teachers from the Education Department

at their respective schools every fortnight. They may also attend centre-based classes once a week. Teaching in basic learning skills and guidance on their social adjustment are provided. Schools and parents are also advised on their management of the pupils. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:23.

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4.1 Intensive Remedial Teaching Programme

Pupils assessed to be intellectually at the top of mild grade mental handicap range usually remain in ordinary schools. They receive intensive remedial support in the three basic subjects under the Intensive Remedial Teaching Programme. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:15.

4.2 Resource Teaching Centre

Pupils who have learning problems but are attending schools without Resource Classes are supported at the Resource Teaching Centre outside school hours. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:45.

5. Support Services for Pupils with Autism and Average Intelligence

5.1 Adjustment Programme

Pupils with social adjustment problems in schools are supported at the Special Education Services Centres on a part-time or full-time basis, depending on the severity of their problems. Pupils are usually discharged from the Adjustment Programme when their problems subside. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:8 .

Bureau Serial No.

EMB075

Question Serial No.

0331

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Are there any specific measures for continuing to promote the use of Chinese as the medium of instruction? What resources have been earmarked for this purpose?

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply :

The Administration has been providing support measures for schools which adopt Chinese as the medium of instruction (CMI), including measures which aim to ensure students' English standard while learning through CMI. These measures include the provision of the following to CMI schools :

Improvement measure		Estimated expenditure in 2001/02 (\$M)
(a)	additional English teachers	24.000
(b)	a recurrent English Language Grant for purchasing English learning materials and teaching aids and for organizing extra-curricular activities in support of English learning	0.633
(c)	resources to carry out works to enable split-class teaching	3.299
(d)	one-off library grant for purchase of additional reading materials	0.090
(e)	additional wireless induction loop system to enhance language learning through listening	0.046
(f)	one-off initial grant for employing temporary clerical staff, and for purchasing and preparing teaching materials in Chinese	0.775

In addition, the Language Fund and the Quality Education Fund have been providing funding to projects which support the use of Chinese as the medium of instruction. For example, the two Funds supported the setting up and operation of the CMI Support Centre which provides training for teachers, support in the production of teaching materials and other professional assistance.

Signature	_____
Name in Block Letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB076

Question Serial No.

0332

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : How many additional school places are required to enable all Secondary 3 students who have the ability and wish to continue their studies to be provided with subsidised Secondary 4 or vocational training places starting from the 2002/03 school year?. What resources will be involved?

Asked by : Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply : To offer more learning opportunities for our youngsters, Government will, starting from the 2002/03 school year, provide adequate subsidised Secondary Four and training places for all Secondary Three students in publicly-funded schools who have the ability and wish to continue their study. To this end, additional schools will need to be built. The first batch of eight schools, involving a construction cost of more than \$800 million, will come on stream in the 2003/04 school year. We expect that an extra \$740 million in recurrent expenditure will be incurred by the 2007/08 school year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB077

Question Serial No.

0339

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Why is there a sharp drop in the number of secondary schools scheduled to commence operation in the 2001/02 year vis-à-vis the 2000/01 school? Please list out the names of the secondary and primary schools (together with the districts) scheduled to commence operation in the new school year.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : More secondary schools were completed in the 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 school years to meet the anticipated demand arising from the influx of newly arrived children (NAC) since 1996. In order to provide sufficient school places for NAC, we estimated that, in addition to the new schools required for meeting natural population growth and movement, nine more secondary schools would need to be built in each of the 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 school years, with another one in the 2001/2002 school year. Including those built to meet natural population growth and movement, 15 and 12 secondary schools were completed for operation in the 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 school years respectively. Another three will be completed for operation in the 2001/2002 school year.

The new secondary and primary schools scheduled for commencement of operation in 2001/02 school year are listed below:

Primary School

No.	District	School Name
1.	Hong Kong East	Sponsored by Hong Kong University Graduates Association Education Foundation Ltd. School name not yet available.
2.	Kowloon City	Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School (Hung Hom Bay)
3.	Kowloon City	Sponsored by Church Body of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. School name not yet available.
4.	Kowloon City	Sponsored by Daughters of Charity of the Canossian Institute Ltd. School name not yet available.
5.	Kowloon City	Kowloon Tong Government Primary School
6.	Kwun Tong	Sau Ming Primary School
7.	Kwun Tong	Sau Ming Ping Catholic Primary School
8.	Kwun Tong	Holm Glad Primary School
9.	Kwun Tong	St. Matthew's Lutheran School
10.	Kwun Tong	Pegasus Philip Wong Kin-hang Christian Primary School (provisional school name)
11.	Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi	SKH Chu Oi Primary School (Shek Yam)
12.	North	Fanling Assembly of God Church Primary School (provisional school name)
13.	Sai Kung	Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Ming Ta Primary School
14.	Tuen Mun	Po Leung Kuk Horizon East Primary School
15.	Yuen Long	Sponsored by Shun Tak Fraternal Association. School name not yet available.
16.	Yuen Long	Sponsored by Shap Pat Heung Rural Committee School Ltd. School name not yet available.
17.	Yuen	WF Joseph Lee Primary School

	Long	
18.	Yuen Long	Sponsored by Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union HK Ltd. School name not yet available.

Secondary School

No.	District	School Name
1.	Sai Kung	Po Kok Secondary School
2.	Yuen Long	Heung To Middle School
3.	Yuen Long	Sponsored by Shun Tak Fraternal Association. School name not yet available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-Chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB078

Question Serial No.

0340

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : It is estimated that in the 2000/01 school year, only 50 schools will complete their School Improvement Programme (SIP). Why is this figure far below the 120 schools originally scheduled to complete the SIP?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The Administration commissioned a consultant in early 2000 to review the cost-effectiveness of the School Improvement Programme (SIP). The SIP works for some 80 schools in phase 4, for which feasibility studies were completed by mid-1999, were held in abeyance pending the outcome of the review.

The consultancy review was completed in June 2000. The review recommended two guidelines for determining whether a school should be included in SIP. The scope of improvement works for all the schools included in SIP phase 4 was subsequently reviewed on the basis of these guidelines. Improvement works have since been reactivated.

In view of the above developments, the number of schools estimated for completion in the 2000/01 school year was adjusted from the original 120 to 50.

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved on 9 February 2001 the costs of improvement works for 122 schools (for SIP phase 4 but excluding 5 schools funded under block allocation) as well as the costs for the pre-construction works for the remaining 342 schools (for SIP final phase). We will proceed with all the improvement works at full speed and aim to complete the entire programme by 2004/05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB079

Question Serial No.

0341

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) : 164 Curriculum Development
Institute

Programme : 4004 Department Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

What expenses will be incurred by the government in providing training courses to enhance teachers' professionalism to meet the needs of curriculum change? Please give the details of such training courses.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Out of the \$30M allocated for curriculum reforms in 2001-02, a total of \$16.21M has been earmarked for running teacher education programmes to enhance teachers' professionalism. These programmes include teacher development courses for new subjects and topics, professional enhancement courses on teaching and learning for the curriculum under the eight key learning areas, and courses on promotion of moral and civic education, environmental education, arts education and computer applications. Web-courses are also provided to enable all teachers to have easy access to the programmes.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB080

Question Serial No.

0342

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Departmental
Supporting Service

Programme : 4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What expenditure will be incurred by the Government on providing pre-service training for newly recruited school principals? What organisations will be responsible for providing such training courses? Please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The estimated expenditure on the training and development of about 110 newly appointed primary, secondary and special school principals in the 2001/02 school year is \$4.36M. Such training includes a personal training needs analysis; an induction programme; a leadership development programme and a continuous professional development programme with built-in off-shore training.

The Education Department will collaborate with local tertiary institutions, overseas academics and consultants, experienced local principals as well as representatives from relevant government departments in designing and delivering the training.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB081

Question Serial No.

0343

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

What is the expenditure incurred by the Government on setting up the web site of the HKeducationCITY.net? What will be the annual operational and maintenance costs of this web site?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The HKeducationCITY.net, launched in August 2000, is a comprehensive education portal site funded by the Quality Education Fund (QEF). \$31.9M was provided for the site to cover the setup operations and maintenance cost for the first two years. The annual operational and maintenance cost is about \$10M.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB082

Question Serial No.

0344

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please list out the wastage rate of kindergarten teachers in non-profit-making kindergartens which have joined the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme (KSS), non-profit-making kindergartens not joining the KSS and independent kindergartens over the past 3 years.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The wastage rates of kindergarten (KG) teachers are as follows:

All teachers (including qualified KG teachers, qualified assistant KG teachers and un-qualified KG teachers)

School Year	Non-profit-making KG		Private Independent KG
	Joined KSS	Not joined KSS	
1997/98	8.0%	10.2%	16.3%
1998/99	7.5%	10.9%	14.7%
1999/2000	9.2%	10.9%	16.1%

Qualified KG teachers only

School Year	Non-profit-making KG		Private Independent KG
	Joined KSS	Not joined KSS	
1997/98	4.1%	6.5%	9.1%
1998/99	4.8%	6.7%	7.4%
1999/2000	5.8%	6.5%	9.4%

Note: Figures cover only teachers in local kindergartens. We do not keep figures on international kindergartens.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB083

Question Serial No.

0346

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40-Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : At present, what organizations are providing pre-service training courses for kindergarten teachers? How are these training places allocated? Please give a breakdown of such training places offered by the organizations per school year from 2001/02 to 2003/04.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : There are four educational institutions in Hong Kong providing different levels of pre-service training courses for kindergarten teachers. The number of training places offered by these institutions in the 2000/01 school year is as follows:

Institute	Course Name	Duration	No. of training places provided
Hong Kong Institute of Education	Certificate in Early Childhood Education (Chinese) Course	3-year	50
Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Lee Wai Lee)	Certificate in Child Care Course	1-year	180
	Diploma in Child Care and Education Course	2-year	160
Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Certificate in Pre-primary Education Course	1-year	60
		3-6 year (Credit system)	47

Hong Kong Baptist University	Certificate in Early Childhood Education Course	2-year	60
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To support the Government's initiative that all new kindergarten teachers should possess a Qualified Kindergarten Teacher (QKT) qualification or equivalent from 2003/04, the Government will provide resources for a programme of a 1-year pre-service QKT course. The number of training places for the QKT course will rise from an initial 200 places in 2000/01 to 600 in 2001/02, 1 200 in 2002/03 and 1 100 in 2003/04. The training places will be allocated to the institutions through tendering.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB084

Question Serial No.

0352

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

To enhance the use of information technology (IT) in teaching and learning in primary schools, the government will provide manpower resources for IT co-ordination to the more IT-ready schools. In this respect, will the Government inform this Council –

- a) What will be the criteria used in identifying the more IT-ready schools? What is the estimated number of schools which will be provided with such manpower resources?
- b) What are the manpower resources earmarked for IT co-ordination in these schools? What is the provision involved?
- c) For those schools without such manpower resources, will they receive other support from the Government to further enhance the use of IT in teaching and learning?

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply :

- (a) Under the five-year strategy on IT in education launched in November 1998, the Government implements an IT co-ordinator scheme to provide an IT co-ordinator post to 250 schools which are more IT-ready. In the 1999/2000 school year, a total of 120 schools have each been provided with the post for two years. A further 130 schools have been provided with the post in the 2000/01 school year. Amongst these 250 schools, 104 schools are primary schools. In addition, another ten primary schools are provided with the post under the IT-pilot scheme, making a total of 114 primary schools.

It is the Government policy to encourage excellence and competition while ensuring a threshold level of provision for all schools. Therefore, one of the major criteria for allocating IT co-ordinator posts is that the schools concerned

are more advanced than others in terms of IT culture and readiness. In assessing IT-readiness, ED considers the experience, involvement and achievement in IT-related activities of the schools.

ED keeps under review IT-readiness of schools and notes that many schools, including those not provided with an IT co-ordinator post, are making significant progress since the launch of the five-year strategy. The Department therefore sought funding from the Quality Education Fund (QEF) in early 2000 to provide another 50 primary schools with an IT co-ordinator post for two years starting from the 2000/01 school year and the application was approved. In December 2000, ED submitted another application to QEF to provide the remaining 560-odd primary schools with IT co-ordinators for one year starting from the 2001/02 school year.

The Government is now conducting a review on the effectiveness of the IT co-ordinator Scheme. The scope of the review covers whether the scheme should continue and, if so, what the mode of operation will be and whether the scheme will cover more schools. The review will be completed in the 2000/01 school year.

- (b) For the 114 IT co-ordinators provided by ED, the earmarked resources is around \$40.4M in the 2001-02 financial year. Separately, QEF provided \$22.2 million to provide one IT co-ordinator each for 50 primary schools. As regards ED's latest application to QEF to provide all remaining primary schools with one IT co-ordinator each, the amount of funding sought is around \$116.4M.
- (c) Schools which have not yet been provided with IT co-ordinator posts are assisted by ED in their planning and implementation of IT in education. Support services include assistance in and advice on matters relating to IT in education through school visits or hotlines, organising teacher training, as well as assisting teachers in producing computer teaching materials. Separately, ED organises from time to time experience sharing sessions and seminars, produces computer teaching software and provides on-line teaching materials etc for all schools.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB085

Question Serial No.

0381

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40-Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The wastage rate of kindergarten teachers is estimated to be 12.2 per cent in 2001/02, which is much higher than the wastage rates of teachers at special schools (3.5 per cent), at skills opportunity schools (3 per cent), at public sector secondary schools (3.4 per cent), and at government and aided primary schools (3.4 per cent). Does the Administration consider the teacher wastage rate in kindergartens acceptable? Why is the rate higher than that of other schools? What resources will the department allocate to reduce the rate and to ensure that the interest of kindergarten pupils will not be sacrificed?

Asked by : Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply : The estimated wastage rate of kindergarten teachers in 2001/02 was based on the statistics obtained from Teacher Survey 2000. According to the survey, a large proportion of the teachers who left the service were untrained kindergarten teachers. (Among the 1 082 teachers who left the service, 735 were untrained teachers). The two major reasons for their leaving the service as reported by the kindergartens were "taking up employment outside teaching profession" and "marriage/child-caring".

To enhance the quality of early childhood education, the Education Department has devoted much emphasis on the training of kindergarten teachers. While sufficient in-service training opportunities are being provided for serving untrained teachers, the department has started commissioning a pre-service Qualified Kindergarten Teacher training programme. From an initial 200 places in the 2000/01 school year, the capacity to programme will rise to 600 places in 2001/02 and eventually to 1 100 places in the 2003/04 school year. This will ensure a sufficient pool of trained kindergarten teachers to meet the requirement that all new kindergarten teachers will possess the pre-service Qualified

Kindergarten Teacher qualification from the 2003/04 school year. It is also expected that the wastage rate of kindergarten teachers will then drop to a lower level.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB086

Question Serial No.

0382

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) : 106 Temporary staff

Programme :

4001	Primary Education
4002	Secondary Education
4003	Special Education
4004	Departmental Support
4005	Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Provision of \$275,242,000 is made under Subhead 106 Temporary staff for 2001-02 Estimate. The increase of \$53,147,000 represents an increase of 23.9 percent over the revised estimate for 2000-01. The provision includes employment of supply teachers in government primary and secondary schools, part-time staff in adult education centres and temporary staff engaged in activities run by government and non-government bodies in schools and centres. Please give a detailed breakdown of the provision.

Asked by : Hon Bernard Chan

Reply : The breakdown of Subhead 106 Temporary staff for 2001-02 is as follows:

	Description	Amount (\$)
(i)	Teachers on NCSC* terms in government schools	42,364,000
(ii)	Supply teachers in government schools	55,864,000
(iii)	Non-teaching staff in government schools	17,529,000
(iv)	Part-time teaching and supporting staff in Adult Education Centres of the department	66,126,000

(v)	Specialist and professional staff employed on task basis for various sections of the department	59,124,000
(vi)	Other supporting staff employed on task basis for various sections of the department	34,235,000

* *NCSC Non-Civil Service Contract*

Signature

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB087

Question Serial No.

0385

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40-Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In view that the problems of over-enrolment and over-charging among kindergartens are becoming serious,

1. How much resources and manpower have been devoted to enforce regulatory work (including inspection) in this respect?
2. Will there be an increase in provision for such regulatory work in 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply : The 182 School Development Officers in the four Regional Education Offices are, amongst other duties, responsible for monitoring and inspecting regularly the kindergartens under their respective purview to ensure compliance with the Education Ordinance and Regulations. During their inspections to kindergartens, they will check documents relating to fees and charges, give advice and monitor the situation for prevention and early rectification of malpractice. School Development Officers also conduct investigations into written allegations.

The Education Department has also set up a Central Compliance Team comprising 8 officers to handle serious non-compliance cases that warrant prosecution action. We estimate that about 10% of the team's total resources are spent on kindergartens.

We do not propose to increase resources for the above activities in 2001-02. Where necessary, we will step up enforcement through re-prioritization of work and re-deployment of existing manpower resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB089

Question Serial No.

0392

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 - Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question :
- (a) What is the estimated expenditure on adult education in 2000-01?
 - (b) How many voluntary agencies which offer adult education courses are expected to be subsidized? Please give a breakdown on the highest, lowest and average amount of subsidy granted to these agencies in 2000-01.
 - (c) What is the nature of the 60 additional adult education courses to be offered? How many courses offered last year were on computer or information technology? How many places were provided altogether?
 - (d) Why is the estimated enrolment in subvented programmes for adults in 2000/01 2% less than originally planned? On the other hand, the planned enrolment in 2001/02 shows an increase of 8.6% over that of 2000/01. What are the reasons? What measures will be taken by the Government to attract more people to take up adult education courses?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) The estimated expenditure on adult education courses provided by the Education Department (ED) in 2001-02 is \$93.4 million, comprising \$75.6 million for formal adult education courses run by ED and 17.8 million for non-formal adult education courses under the Adult Education Subvention Scheme.

- (b) The number of subvented agencies subsidized under the Adult Education Subvention Scheme in the 2001/2002 school year is estimated to be around 115.

In the 2000/2001 school year, the highest, lowest and average amounts of subvention to individual agencies are as follows -

- (i) highest subvention amount: \$1,430,019 (for 6 programmes offering a total of 94 classes)
- (ii) lowest subvention amount: \$5,572 (for 1 programme offering 1 class only)
- (iii) average subvention amount \$171,333

- (c) The 60 additional courses fall under the following four categories -

- (i) basic literacy in Chinese;
- (ii) Putonghua;
- (iii) various educational courses for the physically and mentally handicapped; and
- (iv) pre-retirement/retirement educational courses.

In the 2000/01 school year, a total of 120 computer and IT courses are subvented under the scheme, offering about 2000 places.

- (d) The planned enrolment figure (25 200) for the 2000/01 school year was worked out before applications for subventions were invited, whereas the estimated enrolment figure (24 665) is arrived at after ED has approved the applications. The estimated enrolment figure is lower than the planned one because while the number of courses eventually approved is the same as originally planned, the number of courses with smaller classes is greater than originally planned, thus reducing the number of places offered.

In the 2001/02 school year, there will be an estimated increase of 8.6% in enrolment because 60 additional courses will be launched.

To attract more people to take the courses, we will encourage the subvented agencies to focus on organising courses which are comparatively in greater demand, e.g. vocational English and basic IT courses. They will be asked to explore ways to provide more diversified and flexible modes in the delivery of adult education courses, e.g. interactive approach and outside activities/visits in addition to classroom teaching. As for the formal education courses, we will introduce practical subjects such as Putonghua, practical English and computer applications to meet the needs of adult learners and new arrivals from the

Mainland, and to better prepare them for job opportunities. To reach out more effectively to the target groups, publicity will be strengthened through various means, such as disseminating information through relevant non-government organisations and advertising in the media.

Signature

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB090

Question Serial No.

0463

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
 4002 Secondary Education
 4003 Special Education
 4004 Departmental Support
 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Under sub-head 834, \$3,134,208,000 have been earmarked for equipment for computer studies, among which \$2,924,683,000 are provided for the “enhancement of use of information technology in school education” under item 511. Please give the details of item 511.

Asked by : Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung

Reply :

To implement the “Enhancement of use of information technology in school education” project, the Finance Committee (FC) approved on 5 December 1997 a commitment of \$2,583.2M. With FC’s approval on 29 January 1999, the commitment was increased to \$2,924.7M. The estimated expenditure covers:

	(\$M)
(a) Site preparation	1,257.7
(b) Computer equipment	1,083.0
(c) Intranet	2.5
(d) Training	501.7
(e) Staff cost and contract services	52.3
(f) Provision of computer and Internet access in community facilities	27.5
	<hr/> 2,924.7

2. As regards 1(a) above, the expenditure is for site preparation works at about 1 000 school buildings and the Information Technology Education Resource Centre (ITERC).
3. As regards 1(b) above, the expenditure is mainly for the provision of -
- on average 82 sets of computer and peripherals for each of the 400-odd public sector secondary schools;
 - on average 25 sets of computers and peripherals ^{Note 1} for each of the 500-odd public sector primary schools;
 - on average 30 sets of computers and peripherals for each of the 70-odd special schools.
4. As regards 1(c) above, the expenditure is for engaging consultants to conduct a feasibility study on an education-specific Intranet.
5. As regards 1(d) above, the expenditure is for acquiring about 68 300 training places at four different levels to equip teachers with the necessary IT knowledge and skills ^{Note 2}, developing about ten to 14 self-learning packages, and commissioning a study to define IT competency levels for teachers and developing the assessment tools.
6. As regards 1(e) above, the expenditure is for the provision of six posts in Education Department and 11 posts in Information Technology Services Department and contract services for two years for providing professional input, and developing and managing the initial project work.
7. As regards 1(f) above, the expenditure is for providing 1 000 computers with peripherals, necessary software and Internet access in about 120 children and youth centres, integrated teams and other community facilities for young people.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	15 March 2001

Note 1 Another 15 sets of computers and peripherals were provided for each public sector primary school previously, making the total provision to each public sector primary school an average of 40.

Note 2 Another 16 700 training places for primary school teachers were arranged separately.

Bureau Serial No.

EMB091

Question Serial No.

0633

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) : 834 – Equipment for Computer Studies

Programme : 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding the provision of software packages for computer education in special schools:

- (a) What are the details of the provision?
- (b) What is the reason for the \$1,763,000 balance not to be spent?
- (c) When will the balance be spent?

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

- (a) The commitment of \$3,600,000 was created in the 1996-97 financial year for the development of educational software packages in the form of CD-ROMs for special schools.
- (b) Five sets of software packages have already been produced so far. The actual contract price for these five sets was significantly below the original estimate. Given this and the fact that other works have yet to be completed, there is a balance of \$1,763,000 left unspent.
- (c) We expect to spend the balance in the next two to three years. For example, another set of software package, costing some \$584,000 is currently being developed for release in September 2001.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB092

Question Serial No.

0634

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead : 491 – Remedial services for mildly disabled children in kindergartens

Programme : 4005-Other Direct services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question: How many places of remedial services for mildly disabled children in kindergartens will be provided in 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

168 places will be provided under the Integrated Programme for Mildly Disabled Children in Kindergartens in 2001-02.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB093

Question Serial No.

0635

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

The Estimates states that during 2001-02 the Department will encourage more special schools to develop school-based curriculum with reference to those curriculum resources developed by the Curriculum Development Council.

- (1) How will the Department encourage the schools to do so?
- (2) Will there be any additional financial provision allocated to the schools in order to facilitate them to do so?

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

The Education Department encourages special schools to develop school-based curriculum by working with them to modify centrally developed curriculum materials to suit the needs of their students, conducting subsequent trial teaching programmes and experience sharing follow-up seminars and workshops, publishing the resource materials developed through these programmes on the web, and facilitating schools' networking to share best practices.

Funds for providing support to school-based curriculum development work in special schools are met by recurrent resources in the Education Department's baseline (\$0.5M for the 2001/02), the Capacity Enhancement Grant for Special Schools which was introduced with effect from the 2000/01 school year, and subsidies under the Code of Aid for Special Schools.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB094

Question Serial No.

0636

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Estimates states that there are sufficient special school places to meet the overall demand in the territory.

- (a) What are the numbers of special school places in 2000-01 and 2001-02?
- (b) What are the numbers of practical and skills opportunity school places in 2000-01 and 2001-02?
- (c) What is the number of children requiring education in special, practical and skills opportunity schools waiting for places in 2000-01?

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

- (a) The planned provision of special school places for the 2000/01 and 2001/02 school years are 8 957 and 9 113 respectively.
- (b) The numbers of practical school and skills opportunity school places provided in the 2000/01 school year are 1 410 and 1 220 respectively. The same numbers of school places will be provided for the 2001/02 school year.

- (c) Six children now receiving service in child care centers are wait-listed for places in a particular special school. Their parents have opted for admission to this special school in the next school year, despite the fact that there are existing vacancies in other special schools of the same category.

Twenty-nine children are wait-listed for admission to a practical school in the urban area. All of these children are now attending ordinary secondary schools. Their parents are not willing to enrol these children into other practical schools despite the fact that there are vacancies in these schools.

No child is wait-listed for places in skills opportunity schools.

Signature	_____
Name in Block Letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB095

Question Serial No.

0670

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Government states in the Estimates that it will continue to eliminate floating classes at secondary 1 to 5, but the estimated number of public sector schools remains unchanged. Will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) What is the number of students and secondary schools currently affected by floating classes in Hong Kong?
- (b) Which district is most affected by floating classes?
- (c) What additional resources will be allocated and how much time will be required for providing adequate classrooms for all secondary schools affected by floating classes?

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

In the 2000/01 school year, there remain 54 floating classes at Secondary One to Five levels in 28 public sector secondary schools affecting 2 160 students. Eastern District is the district with the most number of floating classes. These remaining floating classes will be abolished by 2003 through provision of more classrooms under the School Improvement Programme and restructuring of classes. About HK\$60 million has been reserved for the provision of additional classrooms for this purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB096

Question Serial No.

671

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Government states in the Estimates that the expenditure on kindergarten and pre-primary education will be increased, so as to increase the number of kindergartens, improve the teacher-to-pupil ratio in kindergartens by three phases and enhance teacher training. Will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) the teacher-to-pupil ratio in kindergartens in 1998-99 and 1999-2000;
- (b) the expected time required and target for each phase;
- (c) the additional resources provided for kindergartens to employ qualified kindergarten teachers in the coming year, so as to meet the estimated increase in the number of kindergartens; and
- (d) the average salary adjustment rate of kindergarten teachers in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

- a) The prescribed teacher to pupil ratios for the 1998/99 and 1999/2000 school years were as follows:

Class Level
Nursery

Teacher to Pupil Ratio
1:20

Lower Kindergarten & Upper Kindergarten

Half-day classes 1:30
Whole-day classes 1:20

- b) The teacher to pupil ratios in kindergartens will be improved to 1:15 by three phases starting from the 2001/02 school year as follows:

School Year	Class Level
2001/02	Nursery
2002/03	Nursery and Lower Kindergarten
2003/04	All

- c) To enhance the quality of kindergarten education, Government requires all kindergartens to employ at least 60% of qualified kindergarten teachers by 2000/01. The Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme (KSS) was introduced in 1995 to assist kindergartens in meeting this target progressively without having to increase their fees substantially. The subsidy is now disbursed on the basis of a class grant calculated according to the actual number of operating classes in each kindergarten. The revised estimate for the KSS in 2000-01 is \$126.6 million. To cater for increased number of KSS classes, the provision sought in the 2001-02 Estimates is \$151.4 million.
- d) The Education Department does not keep data on salary revision of kindergarten teachers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB097

Question Serial No.

0674

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) : 489

Programme : 5 – Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Under this programme, is there any provision earmarked in 2001-2002 to help drug-addicted and drug-freed youngsters resume schooling, e.g. by running education courses for drug addicts aged 18 or below, or by helping drug-freed youngsters to cope with the difficulties in adjustment, learning and integration into mainstream education upon returning to ordinary schools?

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply :

In 2001-2002, a sum of \$5.8 M has been earmarked to provide subvention to drug treatment and rehabilitation centres in running educational programmes for young drug abusers aged 18 or below undergoing rehabilitation. These educational programmes offer formal curriculum to young drug abusers so that they could integrate into mainstream schools more easily after the rehabilitation treatment. Separately, after their discharge from the drug treatment and rehabilitation centres, the Education Department will offer placement assistance and liaise with schools on support services by the guidance teachers and school social workers to facilitate their integration into mainstream education.

Signature

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB098

Question Serial No.

0792

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The government plans to provide 5 366 whole-day primary classes in the 2001/02 school year. How will this affect the following issues this year and in the coming year :

- (a) According to the distribution of the primary schools, what is the number of whole-day classes in each district?
- (b) What is the percentage of whole-day classes in each district?

Asked by : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

We estimate that the number of whole-day primary classes will be increased to 5 366 in the 2001/02 school year. Details are set out below :

(a) the number of whole-day classes in each district

District	2000/01 School Year (a)	2001/02 School Year (b)	Increase (b) - (a)
Central & Western	243	243	0
Wan Chai	106	106	0
Eastern	165	171	6
Southern	175	170	-5
Islands	116	134	18
Yau Tsim Mong	255	255	0
Kowloon City	219	425	206
Sham Shui Po	135	159	24
Wong Tai Sin	260	260	0
Kwun Tong	272	370	98
Sha Tin	606	677	71
Tai Po	108	152	44
North	264	270	6
Sai Kung	474	530	56
Kwai Tsing	278	398	120

Tsuen Wan	215	252	37
Tuen Mun	198	294	96
Yuen Long	434	500	66
Total	4 523	5 366	843

(b) the percentage of whole-day classes* in each district

District	2000/01 School Year (a)	2001/02 School Year (b)	Increase (b) - (a)
Central & Western	69.0%	72.7%	3.7%
Wan Chai	63.9%	68.2%	4.3%
Eastern	21.7%	22.4%	0.7%
Southern	59.4%	60.0%	0.6%
Islands	80.8%	86.2%	5.4%
Yau Tsim Mong	60.5%	63.9%	3.4%
Kowloon City	39.9%	80.0%	40.1%
Sham Shui Po	26.1%	31.9%	5.8%
Wong Tai Sin	34.2%	33.5%	-0.7%
Kwun Tong	29.2%	37.3%	8.1%
Sha Tin	62.5%	67.6%	5.1%
Tai Po	12.8%	17.0%	4.2%
North	30.2%	34.8%	4.6%
Sai Kung	74.2%	80.1%	5.9%
Kwai Tsing	40.4%	52.2%	11.8%
Tsuen Wan	35.9%	37.1%	1.2%
Tuen Mun	19.1%	27.1%	8.0%
Yuen Long	33.8%	40.1%	6.3%
Total	39.1%	45.9%	6.8%

* Percentage of whole - day classes = $\frac{\text{No. of whole - day classes}}{\text{Total no. of classes required}} \times 100\%$

Signature _____

Name in Block Letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB099

Question Serial No.

793

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Has the Government reserved adequate and suitable school sites for the implementation of whole-day primary schooling in the 2001/02 and 2002/03 school years?

Asked by : Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply : Government's interim target is to enable 60% of our primary school pupils to study in whole-day schools by the 2002/03 school year. To achieve this target, 78 primary schools will be required from the 1998/99 to 2002/03 school years. Of these 78 schools, 18 and 20 will be completed in the 2001/02 and 2002/03 school years respectively. Sufficient school sites have already been reserved for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB100

Question Serial No.

0818

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 - Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Education Department will create 7 additional posts to provide additional support for government secondary schools which implement the measures in the Medium of Instruction Guidance for Secondary Schools. Please inform this Council of:

- (1) the title and salary of the 7 posts;
- (2) the number of government schools to be served; and
- (3) the items included in the additional support services.

Asked by : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan

Reply : Schools using Chinese as the medium of instruction are entitled to an additional English teacher to strengthen the teaching and learning of English. Out of the seven additional posts referred to under Programme (2) in the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, two Assistant Education Officer (AEO) posts are for two government secondary schools using Chinese as the medium of instruction. With the two AEOs, who are English teachers, the two schools will have additional manpower to strengthen the teaching of English, such as organising split classes in English lessons. The pay scale of

the Assistant Education Officer rank is \$17,100 - \$46,485.

The other five additional posts referred to under Programme (2) are Certificated Master (CM) posts which are for the development of integrated education for children with special educational needs. The pay scale of the CM rank is \$17,100 - \$30,785.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB101

Question Serial No.

0819

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead : 002-Allowances

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
 4002 Secondary Education
 4003 Special Education
 4004 Departmental Support
 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : A provision of \$22,451,000 has been earmarked for standard and non-standard allowances in the coming year, including overtime allowances for Chauffeurs.

Please inform this Council –

- (1) What items are included under standard allowances and what is the amount of allowances involved?
- (2) How many Chauffeurs are being employed by the Education Department? What is the amount of overtime performed each month and what is the amount of allowances paid?

Asked by : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan

Reply : Standard allowances under Subhead 002 Allowances for 2001-02 in the Education Department include the following allowances -

Allowances	Amount (\$ million)
Overtime allowances	4.038
Acting allowances	18.227
Typhoon allowances	0.033
Rainstorm black-warning allowances	0.033
Total	22.331

The Education Department has one Chauffeur. It is estimated that in 2001-02, the number of hours of overtime work to be performed by the Chauffeur will be around 140 hours per month. The allowance payable will be around \$10,000 per month.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB102

Question Serial No.

0820

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :108 – Remuneration for
 Special

Appointments

Programme : Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Government will allocate \$36,758,000 to pay for the salaries of native-speaking English teachers in government secondary schools employed on non-civil service contract terms in the coming year. This figure represents an increase of 35.5% over the 2000-01 estimate. Please inform this Council –

- (1) How many teachers will be employed in the coming year? What is the increase in number compared to that of 2000-01?
- (2) What will be their salary? What is the amount of increase or decrease compared to that of 2000-01?
- (3) How many secondary schools will be benefited in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan

Reply :

- (a) There are now 51 NETs employed in 36 out of the 37 government secondary schools (excluding the Practical Education Centre which does not offer English language subjects). The Administration plans to employ seven more in the 2001/02 school year.
- (b) The salary scale of a NET is from Master Pay Scale Point 12 (\$17,100) to Point 33 (\$46,485). The actual salary of a NET depends on his/her teaching experience. In the 2000/01 school year, the estimated average monthly salary of NETs is \$32,190. The salary scale of NETs will remain unchanged in the 2001/02 school year. The increase in the provision under Subhead 108 for the salaries of NETs in the 2001-02 financial year is due to :-
 - (i) the additional seven NETs to be employed in government secondary schools in the 2001/02 school year; and

Bureau Serial No.

EMB103

Question Serial No.

0821

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) : 325 Direct Subsidy SchemeProgramme : 4001 Primary Education
 4002 Secondary EducationControlling Officer : Director of EducationBureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and ManpowerQuestion : Government's subventions of \$828,240,000 to primary and secondary schools participating in the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) in 2001-02 represents an increase of 31.1% over the revised estimate for 2000-01. This is mainly due to an estimated increase in the amount of DSS subsidy and in the number of schools joining DSS. Please inform this Council :

- (1) What is the number of primary and secondary schools currently joining DSS? What are the subsidy rates provided to each school?
- (2) What is the estimated increase in the number of primary and secondary schools joining DSS in the coming year?
- (3) What is the estimated increase in the subsidy rates in the coming year?
- (4) If the number of primary and secondary schools joining DSS in the coming year is less than expected, how will the Government use the surplus funds?

Asked by : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yanReply :

- (1) There are one primary and 30 secondary schools in the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) in the 2000/01 school year. The subsidy a DSS school receives is derived with reference to the number of its eligible students. The subsidy rates for local non-profit-making DSS schools in the 2000/01 financial year, which are calculated on the basis of the average unit cost of an aided school place, are as follows:

Level	DSS Subsidy (per pupil per annum)	
	For schools operating less than 16 years	For schools operating 16 years or above
Primary 1 – 6	\$19,397	\$22,031
Secondary 1 – 3	\$28,564	\$29,513
Secondary 4 – 5	\$25,923	\$26,961
Secondary 6 – 7	\$46,455	\$48,103

(2) It is estimated that two primary and three secondary schools will join the DSS in the 2001/02 school year.

(3) The DSS subsidy rates for the 2001/02 financial year are estimated to be as below:

Level	DSS Subsidy (per pupil per annum)	
	For schools operating less than 16 years	For schools operating 16 years or above
Primary 1 – 6	\$20,782 (+7.1%)	\$23,466 (+6.5%)
Secondary 1 – 3	\$29,732 (+4.1%)	\$30,720 (+4.1%)
Secondary 4 – 5	\$27,116 (+4.6%)	\$28,200 (+4.6%)
Secondary 6 – 7	\$48,243 (+3.8%)	\$49,948 (+3.8%)

(4) If the actual number of new DSS schools turns out to be less than the estimated number, the provision can be released and considered for redeployment to other priority areas if necessary.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title Director of Education
Date 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB104

Question Serial No.

0905

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : How will the Government achieve the target of enabling 60% of primary school pupils to study in whole-day schools by 2002? Please elaborate. What specific measures have been taken to fully implement whole-day schooling in primary schools by 2007? What is the expenditure involved? Among the estimated 339 whole-day primary schools in the new school year, how many of them have been merged from two bisessional schools? How many are formed by splitting two bisessional schools? How many are newly established whole-day schools? Among the above three categories of whole-day schools, how many are government, subsidized and DSS schools respectively? What is the number of classes and students for each type of school? How many schools need to be built by 2007? Are there any specific measures and arrangements to assist schools in their conversion or reprovisioning process? What is the resource required? Will the Government implement the recommendations as laid down in Education Commission Report No.5 by injecting adequate resources for whole-day primary schooling, which include, among other things, the improvement of the teacher-class ratio to 1.5:1?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

To achieve the target of enabling 60% of primary school pupils to study in whole-day schools by the 2002/03 school year, we have been adopting the following measures :

- (a) building 78 new school premises from 1998 to 2002 at a cost of about \$7,200M; and
- (b) employing various measures to enable bi-sessional schools to convert into whole-day operation such as using vacant classrooms, building additional classrooms, and gradually reducing the number of classes in the morning or afternoon session.

Based on the forecast on supply and demand of primary school places, we need to build another 46 new schools at a cost of about \$4,300M to fully implement whole-day schooling by the 2007/08 school year. In addition, we will continue to employ the various measures as set out in (b) above to work towards full implementation of whole-day primary schooling.

In the 2000/01 school year, there are a total of 293 government and aided whole-day primary schools. We estimate that 46 more will come into operation in the 2001/02 school year, making a total of 339. The breakdown of these 46 additional whole-day primary schools is as follows :

Measures	Type	No. of Schools	No. of classes	No. of students
(a) Merging from two bisessional schools	Government	0	0	0
	Aided	16	338	11 661
(b) Relocating one of the two sessions to a new school premises	Government	4	108	3 726
	Aided	14	282	9 729
(c) Newly established whole-day schools	Government	0	0	0
	Aided	14	120	4 140
(d) Closure of existing whole-day schools due to failing demand	Government	0	0	0
	Aided	-2	-5	-108
Total		46	843	29 148

The Education Department (ED) will render support to all new whole-day primary and existing bi-sessional schools to help them operate under the whole-day mode. These schools may refer to circulars and guidelines issued by ED. Up-to-date materials and resources are also provided through various means such as ED's homepage to help schools convert to whole-day operation.

In addition, as compared with bi-sessional primary schools, whole-day schools are provided with enhanced resources :

- an enhanced class grant to meet additional overheads;
- a non-recurrent grant for purchase of furniture to facilitate lunch arrangements;
- an enhanced teacher-to-class ratio of 1.4 to 1;
- an improved ratio of one senior teacher for every three classes; and
- an improved clerical staff provision for schools with 12 or more classes.

We will continue to review the support rendered to whole-day primary schools from time to time.

Signature	_____
Name in Block Letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB105

Question Serial No.

0906

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please give a breakdown of the estimated 3 primary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) in the new school year in terms of the following : the name of the sponsoring bodies, the address, size and characteristics of the schools, their number of classrooms, the tuition fees and other charges payable, as well as the specific items subsidised by the Government and the actual amount of subsidies granted. What is the difference in the subsidies provided by the Government between DSS schools and aided and private primary schools of similar size? How many applications for switching to DSS schools have been received so far? What policy has been adopted by the Government to encourage existing aided or private primary schools to apply for switching to DSS schools, or to invite sponsoring bodies to operate new DSS schools? Are there any schedule and specific plans on the number of DSS primary schools to be operated in future?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

Of the 3 primary schools, one is already in the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) since the 2000/01 school year. It is estimated that two more schools will join the Scheme in the 2001/02 school year, one being a new primary school which is expected to start operation using Government-built premises in Tin Shui Wai, the other one being an aided primary school recently applying to join the Scheme.

For the aided primary school applying to join the DSS, it would not be appropriate to disclose its identity since the application is still being considered. For the other two DSS schools, details are as follows:

School Name/ Location	Po Leung Kuk Camoes Tan Siu Lin Primary School	New school to commence operation in the 2001/02 school year
Sponsoring body	Po Leung Kuk	Wofoo Foundation Ltd.
Location	6 Hoi Ting Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon	Area 101, Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long
No. of classes	28 in the 2000/01 school year	School proposed to operate 24 classes in the 2001/02 school year
Characteristics	Rich language context and a wide range of extra-curricular activities	To provided all-round quality education
No. of classrooms	30	30
Fee Levels	\$6680 p.p.a.	To be confirmed.
Government subsidy (including DSS subsidy and Capacity Enhancement Grant)	For September 2000-March 2001: \$11.123M For April 2001-August 2001: depends on the number of eligible students of the school at 30 March 2001	The DSS subsidy to be received by the school depends on the number of eligible students the school admits and the school fees charged.

Government subsidies to aided, DSS and private primary schools are set out as follows –

	Capital	Recurrent
Aided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation of Government-built school premises; or allocation of sites for school construction with provision of a capital grant, the amount being no more than the construction cost of a public sector school of the same size - For major and slope repairs, funds are available on an application basis. Works for upgrading schools' facilities are carried out in the context of the School Improvement Programme 	In accordance with the Code of Aid for Primary Schools
DSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation of Government-built school premises; or allocation of sites for school construction with provision of a capital grant, the amount being no more than the construction cost of a public sector school of the same size - Regarding maintenance and repair works, subsidy for those costing below \$2 M is subsumed under DSS subsidy. For slope repairs, and major repairs exceeding \$2 M, funds are available on an application basis. Schools may also apply for a one-off capital grant for upgrading their facilities 	Subsidy calculated on the basis of the average unit cost of an aided school place
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of land grant at nominal premium ^(Note) - A capital grant for school construction ^(Note), the amount being no more than the construction cost of a public sector school of the same size - For slope repair works, loans are available on an application basis 	Non-profit-making schools may receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refund of Government rents and rates - Target Oriented Curriculum Grants

(Note) Only non-profit-making private independent schools approved by the School Allocation Committee will be eligible for the support. The School Allocation Committee is a committee responsible for allocation of school premises and schools sites to school operators. It is chaired by the Director of Education and comprises both official and non-official members.

Government's policy is to foster the development of a vibrant DSS school sector so as to inject diversity and choice in the education system. To support the growth of a strong DSS sector and to provide new or existing quality school operators with more incentives to join the Scheme, we have introduced a series of initiatives over the past two years, including -

- (a) allocating Government-built school premises or school sites for operation of new DSS schools;
- (b) revising the income-banding system with a view to providing DSS schools with greater flexibility in deciding their levels of school fees;
- (c) providing non-recurrent capital grant and one-off cash grant to DSS schools for slope/major repairs and for upgrading school facilities respectively; and
- (d) preserving ex-aided DSS teachers' provident fund benefits through amending the Grant Schools Provident Fund (GSPF) Rules and the Subsidized Schools Provident Fund (SSPF) Rules.

We have so far received three applications from aided primary schools for joining DSS. One was admitted to the Scheme in the 2000/01 school year, one was turned down, and the other one is still being considered.

We will continue to encourage new or existing quality school operators to join DSS. In deciding on the number of schools which could join DSS each year, we will ensure that only quality school operators will be admitted to the Scheme. At the same time, we will ensure that there will be adequate aided or government school places to meet Government's established policy of providing nine years of free and universal basic education, and a highly subsidised senior secondary education. Under the existing policy, private primary schools are not allowed to join DSS.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB106

Question Serial No.

0907

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : How many private independent primary schools are now operating in Hong Kong? What is the number of private independent primary schools scheduled for construction in the next 3 years? Among them, how many are built on sites granted by the Government at nominal premium? Apart from this, do these primary schools receive other form of subsidy from the Government? How does the Government monitor these schools?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply : There are at present 59 local and 28 international private primary schools in Hong Kong.

The Government's policy is to foster the development of a vibrant private school sector so as to inject diversity and choice in the education system. Since 1999, we have allocated five sites for the development of private independent schools (PISs). While one of them will operate as a secondary school, the others will operate as primary-cum-secondary schools. These PISs are scheduled to commence operation in batches from the 2003/04 school year onwards.

We do not project the number of new private schools which do not require land grant from the Government. PISs do not receive any recurrent subsidy but may receive a capital grant from the Government for school construction. Non-profit-making private schools may receive Target Oriented Curriculum

grants (for primary schools only) and refund of government rates and rents. These schools may also apply for interest-free loans for slope repair works.

PISs allocated land at nominal premium since 1999 have been required to enter into a ten-year service agreement with the Government, which holds them accountable for the quality of their education services. They will also be subject to the quality assurance inspections by the Advisory Inspectorate of the Education Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB107

Question Serial No.

0908

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Please give a breakdown of the estimated 33 secondary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) in the new school year in terms of the following: the name of the sponsoring bodies, the year in which the schools commenced operation, the address, size and characteristics of the schools, their number of classrooms, the tuition fees and other charges payable, as well as the specific items subsidised by the Government and the actual amount of subsidies granted. What is the difference in the subsidies provided by the Government between DSS schools and aided and private secondary schools of similar size? How many applications for switching to DSS schools have been received so far? What policy has been adopted by the Government to encourage existing aided or private secondary schools to apply for switching to DSS schools, or to invite sponsoring bodies to operate new DSS schools? Are there any schedule and specific plans on the number of DSS secondary schools to be operated in future?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

It is estimated that there will be a total of 33 Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) secondary schools comprising 30 existing DSS schools and 3 new DSS schools in the 2001/02 school year. Details of the names of the sponsoring bodies, the year in which the schools commenced operation, the address, size and characteristics of the schools, their number of classrooms, the tuition fees and other charges payable are summarized in the Annex.

Government subsidies to aided, DSS and private secondary schools are set out as follows-

	Capital	Recurrent
Aided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation of Government-built school premises; or allocation of sites for school construction with provision of a capital grant, the amount being no more than the construction cost of a public sector school of the same size - For major and slope repairs, funds are available on an application basis. Works for upgrading schools' facilities are carried out in the context of the School Improvement Programme 	In accordance with the Code of Aid for Secondary Schools
DSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation of Government-built school premises; or allocation of sites for school construction with provision of a capital grant, the amount being no more than the construction cost of a public sector school of the same size - Regarding maintenance and repair works, subsidy for those costing below \$2 M is subsumed under DSS subsidy. For slope repairs, and major repairs exceeding \$2 M, funds are available on an application basis. Schools may also apply for a one-off capital grant for upgrading their facilities 	Subsidy calculated on the basis of the average unit cost of an aided school place
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of land grant at nominal premium(Note) - A capital grant for school construction (Note), the amount being no more than the construction cost of a public sector school of the same size - For slope repair works, loans are available on an application basis 	Refund of Government rents and rates for non-profit-making schools only

(Note) Only non-profit-making private independent schools approved by the School Allocation Committee will be eligible for the support. The School Allocation Committee is a committee responsible for allocation of school premises and schools sites to school operators. It is chaired by the Director of Education and comprises both official and non-official members.

Government's policy is to foster the development of a vibrant DSS school sector so as to inject diversity and choice in the education system. To support the growth of a strong DSS sector and to provide new or existing quality school operators with more incentives to join the Scheme, we have introduced a series of initiatives over the past two years, including –

- (a) allocating Government-built school premises or school sites for operation of new DSS schools;
- (b) revising the income-banding system with a view to providing DSS schools with greater flexibility in deciding their levels of school fees;
- (c) providing non-recurrent capital grant and one-off cash grant to DSS schools for slope/major repairs and for upgrading school facilities respectively; and
- (d) preserving ex-aided DSS teachers' provident fund benefits through amending the Grant Schools Provident Fund (GSPF) Rules and the Subsidized Schools Provident Fund (SSPF) Rules.

We received in 2000 two applications from existing caput or Bought Place Scheme schools for joining the Scheme. These applications are still being considered.

We will continue to encourage new or existing quality school operators to join DSS. In deciding on the number of schools which could join DSS each year, we will ensure that only quality school operators will be admitted to the Scheme. At the same time, we will ensure that there will be adequate aided or government school places to meet Government's established policy of providing nine years of free and universal basic education, and a highly subsidized senior secondary education. Under the existing policy, private secondary schools are not allowed to join DSS.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Director of Education

20 March 2001

Annex

Information on the 33 DSS Secondary Schools in the 2001/02 School Year

No.	School Name	Name of Sponsor	School Address	Year of DSS Commencement	School Size (Enrolment/ No. of Classes)	No. of Class-rooms	School Fees (\$pppa)			Other Charges	Subvented Items	Projected Subsidy 2001-02 f.y.* (\$M)	School Characteristics
							S1-3	S4-5	S6-7				
1	Hon Wah Middle School	Hon Wah Middle School	10-13 Ching Lin Terrace, Hong Kong	1991	766/21	23	2,400	6,400	8,750	-	(a), (b), (c)	28.3	Long-established CMI school and emphasis on development of students' potential.
2	St Margaret's Girls' College, Hong Kong (Caine Road)	St Margaret's Girls' College HK Ltd	97 Caine Road, Central, Hong Kong	1999	506/9	13	2,000	7,050	10,750	-	(a), (b), (d)	16.4	Former BPS girls' school and emphasis on extra-curricular activities.
3	Kiangsu-Chekiang College	Kiangsu & Chekiang Residents (HK) Association	20 Braemar Hill Road, North Point, Hong Kong	1993	1256/36	59	2,450	5,800	9,300	-	(a), (b), (c)	45.4	Emphasis on all-round education, comprehensive counseling and guidance support.
4	Pui Kiu Middle School	Pui Kiu Middle School Ltd.	190 Tin Hau Temple Road, North Point, Hong Kong	1991	925/24	24	2,600	5,800	9,300	-	(a), (b), (c)	31.8	Long-established CMI school, implementation of SBM, interflow of experienced teachers from Mainland and emphasis on development of students' potential.
5	The Chinese Foundation Secondary School	The Chinese History and Culture Educational Foundation Company Ltd.	9 Harmony Road, Siu Sai Wan, Chai Wan, H.K.	2000	304/10	30	9,050	-	23,580	-	(a), (b)	18.7	New school, emphasis on all-round education and development of students' potential.

No.	School Name	Name of Sponsor	School Address	Year of DSS Commencement	School Size (Enrolment/ No. of Classes)	No. of Class-rooms	School Fees (\$pppa)			Other Charges	Subvented Items	Projected Subsidy 2001-02 f.y.* (\$M)	School Characteristics
							S1-3	S4-5	S6-7				
6	Mongkok Workers' Children School	Hong Kong Workers' Educational Organization Limited	14 Princess Margaret Road, Homantin, Kowloon	1991	905/25	36	2,000	5,200	8,800	-	(a), (b), (c)	32.4	Long-established CMI school, emphasis on extra-curricular activities and all-round education.
7	New Method College	New Method College	25 Man Fuk Road, Homantin, Kowloon	1997	1278/35	30	16,590	19,570	34,670	-	(a), (b)	50.2	Emphasis on English teaching and wide range of extra-curricular activities.
8	Delia Memorial School (Hip Wo)	Fair Enterprise Limited	221 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	1999	1493/39	33	0	5,350	9,050	-	(a), (b), (d)	48.4	Former BPS school with a Chinese section and an English section and emphasis on multi-cultural activities.
9	Delia Memorial School (Yuet Wah)	Fair Enterprise Limited	19 Yuet Wah Street, Kwun	1999	1211/33	32	0	5,350	9,050	-	(a), (b), (d)	42.8	Former BPS school and emphasis on counseling

Key

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- (a) Bought Place Scheme
- (b) of Instruction
- (c) based Management
- (d)
- (e)
- DSS Subsidy
- Capacity Enhancement Grant
- Refund of Rates
- Fee Remission
- Refund of Government Rent
- BPS-
- CMI- Chinese as Medium
- SBM – School-

* The figures are projected based upon the projected subsidy received by the schools in 2001-02 financial year, subject to further information on the actual average student unit cost of aided secondary grammar place in the relevant year.

No.	School Name	Name of Sponsor	School Address	Year of DSS Commencement	School Size (Enrolment/ No. of Classes)	No. of Class-rooms	School Fees (\$pppa)			Other Charges	Subvented Items	Projected Subsidy 2001-02 f.y.* (\$M)	School Characteristics
							S1-3	S4-5	S6-7				
			Tong, Kowloon									support.	
10	Fukien Secondary School	Fukien Middle School Limited	Chun Wah Road, Kwun Tong, Kln.	2000	738/18	30	2,800	S4-6,300 S5-6,600	12,000	-	(a), (b)	28.0	New premises and emphasis on national education.
11	Matteo Ricci College, Kowloon	Matteo Ricci Educational Development Company Limited	223 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2000	656/17	18	0	5,350	9,050	-	(a), (b), (d)	23.0	Former BPS school, emphasis on discipline and counseling support.
12	Fanling Lutheran Secondary School	The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong	270 Jockey Club Road, Fanling, N.T.	1998	1155/38	23	2,500	5,050	8,750	280	(a), (b), (c), (e)	37.9	Curriculum-tailoring and emphasis on raising academic achievements and all-round development.
13	Chan Shu Kui	Chan's	10 Tat Chee	1999	1177/30	39	0	5,500	9,200	-	(a), (b), (d)	38.9	Emphasis on IT in

Key

27

- (a) Bought Place Scheme
- (b) of Instruction
- (c) based Management
- (d)
- (e)
- DSS Subsidy
- Capacity Enhancement Grant
- Refund of Rates
- Fee Remission
- Refund of Government Rent
- BPS-
- CMI- Chinese as Medium
- SBM – School-

* The figures are projected based upon the projected subsidy received by the schools in 2001-02 financial year, subject to further information on the actual average student unit cost of aided secondary grammar place in the relevant year.

No.	School Name	Name of Sponsor	School Address	Year of DSS Commencement	School Size (Enrolment/ No. of Classes)	No. of Class-rooms	School Fees (\$pppa)			Other Charges	Subvented Items	Projected Subsidy 2001-02 f.y.* (\$M)	School Characteristics
							S1-3	S4-5	S6-7				
	Memorial School	Education Organization Limited	Avenue, Yau Yat Chuen, Kowloon									education and having 2 teachers in each S1 class.	
14	China Holiness College	China Holiness Church	170 Wai Wai Road, Shamshuipo, Kowloon	1998	436/11	11	2,500	5,480	5,480	-	(a), (b), (c), (e)	15.3	Emphasis on extra-curricular activities, discipline and counseling support.
15	Delia Memorial School (Broadway)	Fair Enterprise Limited	G-4/F., Mei Foo Sun Chuen, 80-86 Broadway, Mei Foo, Kowloon	1999	852/22	22	0	5,350	9,050	-	(a), (b), (d)	28.1	Former BPS school and emphasis on student development.
16	Delia Memorial School (Glee Path)	Fair Enterprise Limited	G-4/F., Mei Foo Sun Chuen, T-15, 1-3 Glee Path, Mei Foo,	1999	712/20	20	0	5,350	9,050	-	(a), (b), (d)	24.7	Former BPS school, emphasis on all-round education and student development.

Key

- (a) Bought Place Scheme
- (b) of Instruction
- (c) based Management
- (d)
- (e)
- DSS Subsidy
- Capacity Enhancement Grant
- Refund of Rates
- Fee Remission
- Refund of Government Rent
- BPS-
- CMI- Chinese as Medium
- SBM – School-

* The figures are projected based upon the projected subsidy received by the schools in 2001-02 financial year, subject to further information on the actual average student unit cost of aided secondary grammar place in the relevant year.

No.	School Name	Name of Sponsor	School Address	Year of DSS Commencement	School Size (Enrolment/ No. of Classes)	No. of Class-rooms	School Fees (\$pppa)			Other Charges	Subvented Items	Projected Subsidy 2001-02 f.y.* (\$M)	School Characteristics
							S1-3	S4-5	S6-7				
			Kowloon										
17	Heung To Middle School	Heung To Middle School Limited	33 To Yuen Street, Tai Hang Tung, Kowloon	1991	981/24	24	3,000	6,600	11,000	-	(a), (b), (c), (e)	33.0	Long-established CMI school and emphasis on student development.
18	Pak Kau Girls' School	Yuen Long Pak Kau English School Limited	23 A-L, Broadway, G/F, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Kowloon	1999	681/17	17	0	5,050	8,750	-	(a), (b), (d)	22.1	Former BPS girls' school and emphasis on guidance and counseling support.
19	Tak Yan School	Tak Yan Educational Consultants Ltd.	G-3/F., 46 Nassau Street, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Kowloon	2000	588/15	20	0	5,840	-	-	(a), (b), (d)	19.0	Former BPS school and emphasis on guidance and counseling support.
20	Wai Kiu College	Wai Yeung Merchants	17 Wai Chi Street, Shek	1999	628/16	18	0	5,050	8,750	-	(a), (b), (c), (d), (e)	20.2	Former BPS school, emphasis on guidance

Key

29

- (a) Bought Place Scheme
- (b) of Instruction
- (c) based Management
- (d)
- (e)
- DSS Subsidy
- Capacity Enhancement Grant
- Refund of Rates
- Fee Remission
- Refund of Government Rent
- BPS-
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* The figures are projected based upon the projected subsidy received by the schools in 2001-02 financial year, subject to further information on the actual average student unit cost of aided secondary grammar place in the relevant year.

No.	School Name	Name of Sponsor	School Address	Year of DSS Commencement	School Size (Enrolment/ No. of Classes)	No. of Class-rooms	School Fees (\$pppa)			Other Charges	Subvented Items	Projected Subsidy 2001-02 f.y.* (\$M)	School Characteristics
							S1-3	S4-5	S6-7				
		Assn Education Fund Ltd.	Kip Mei, Kowloon									and counseling support.	
21	Hang Seng School of Commerce	Hang Seng School of Commerce Limited	Siu Lek Yuen, Shatin, N.T.	1992	782/24	23	-	-	9,700	S6 - 7,000 S7 - 5,600	(a), (b), (c), (e)	35.9	Operating 2-year Advanced Level programmes, no S1-S5 classes, having student hostel and with all teachers holding degree.
22	Li Po Chun United World College of Hong Kong	Li Pi Chun United World College (HK) Ltd	10 Lok Wo Sha Lane, Sai Sha Road, Shatin, N.T.	1994	252/8	9	-	-	93,000	Boarding Fee 66,000	(a), (b), (c), (e)	2.2	Operating 2-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and emphasis on all-round education.
23	Tak Sun Secondary School	East Asian Educational Association	27 Ning Tai Road, Ma On Shan, Shatin, N.T.	2000	415/12	30	3,000	7,000	15,000	-	(a), (b)	18.7	Boys' school, emphasis on all-round education and each student having a personal tutor.

Key

30

- (a) Bought Place Scheme
- (b) of Instruction
- (c) based Management
- (d)
- (e)
- DSS Subsidy
- Capacity Enhancement Grant
- Refund of Rates
- Fee Remission
- Refund of Government Rent
- BPS-
- CMI- Chinese as Medium
- SBM – School-

* The figures are projected based upon the projected subsidy received by the schools in 2001-02 financial year, subject to further information on the actual average student unit cost of aided secondary grammar place in the relevant year.

No.	School Name	Name of Sponsor	School Address	Year of DSS Commencement	School Size (Enrolment/ No. of Classes)	No. of Class-rooms	School Fees (\$pppa)			Other Charges	Subvented Items	Projected Subsidy 2001-02 f.y.* (\$M)	School Characteristics
							S1-3	S4-5	S6-7				
24	Pak Kau College	Pak Kau Educational Organization Limited	DD122, Lot 1732, Ping Shan, Yuen Long, N.T.	1999	677/18	20	0	5,050	-	-	(a), (b), (d)	20.8	Former BPS school, emphasis on sports and all-round education.
25	Pak U Middle School	Gloria Educational Services Limited	Lot 1935, DD121, Tai To Tsuen, Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long, N.T.	2000	442/12	14	0	-	-	-	(a), (b), (d)	15.0	Former BPS school and emphasis on all-round education.
26	HKMA David Li Kwok Po College	Hong Kong Management Association	8 Hoi Wang Road, Kowloon	2000	443/12	30	9,000	13,300	23,500	-	(a), (b)	26.8	Emphasis on all-round education and nurturing students with international outlook.
27	German Swiss International School	German Swiss International School Foundation Ltd	11 & 22 Guildford Road, The Peak, Hong	1991	544/26	26	-	83,300	88,100	-	(a), (c)	1.0	International school with both English and German streams and emphasis on all-round

Key

31

- (a) Bought Place Scheme
- (b) Capacity Enhancement Grant of Instruction
- (c) Refund of Rates based Management
- (d) Fee Remission
- (e) Refund of Government Rent
- BPS-
CMI- Chinese as Medium
SBM – School-

* The figures are projected based upon the projected subsidy received by the schools in 2001-02 financial year, subject to further information on the actual average student unit cost of aided secondary grammar place in the relevant year.

No.	School Name	Name of Sponsor	School Address	Year of DSS Commencement	School Size (Enrolment/ No. of Classes)	No. of Class-rooms	School Fees (\$pppa)			Other Charges	Subvented Items	Projected Subsidy 2001-02 f.y.* (\$M)	School Characteristics
							S1-3	S4-5	S6-7				
			Kong.									education.	
28	Chinese International School	The Chinese International School Foundation Ltd.	1 Hau Yuen Path, Braemar Hill, North Point, Hong Kong.	1991	693/28	54	-	-	91,300	-	(a), (c), (e)	1.6	International school operating kindergarten, primary and secondary classes and offering a bilingual programme on Chinese and Western cultural heritage.
29	Hong Kong International School	The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod	1 Red Hill Road, Tai Tam, Hong Kong	1991	1330/55	50	-	-	S.6 125,700 S.7 126,250	-	(a), (c), (e)	3.4	International school, emphasis on all-round education and individual development of students.
30	Lyc'ee Francais international (French International School)	French International School "Victor Segalen" Association Limited	165 Blue Pool Road, Hong Kong	1991	382/19	23			103,476 for English Stream 72,357 for French Stream	-	(a), (c), (e)	1.0	International school with 2 streams (English & French) and emphasis on all-round education.

Key

32

- (a) Bought Place Scheme DSS Subsidy BPS-
- (b) of Instruction Capacity Enhancement Grant CMI- Chinese as Medium
- (c) based Management Refund of Rates SBM – School-
- (d) Fee Remission
- (e) Refund of Government Rent

* The figures are projected based upon the projected subsidy received by the schools in 2001-02 financial year, subject to further information on the actual average student unit cost of aided secondary grammar place in the relevant year.

No.	School Name	Name of Sponsor	School Address	Year of DSS Commencement	School Size (Enrolment/ No. of Classes)	No. of Class-rooms	School Fees (\$pppa)			Other Charges	Subvented Items	Projected Subsidy 2001-02 f.y.* (\$M)	School Characteristics
							S1-3	S4-5	S6-7				
31	Heung To Middle School, Yuen Long	Heung To Middle School Ltd	Area 101, Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long	2001	26 classes proposed	30	Yet to be decided by school	Yet to be decided by school	Yet to be decided by school	Yet to be decided by school	-	Depending on the no. of students admitted	New school, emphasis on all-round education with wide IT application in teaching and learning.
32	New School ^(Note)	No information yet		2001	No information yet								
33	New school ^(Note)			2001									

(Note) Applications are still being processed. Relevant information is therefore not available.

Key

33

- (a) Bought Place Scheme DSS Subsidy BPS-
- (b) of Instruction Capacity Enhancement Grant CMI- Chinese as Medium
- (c) based Management Refund of Rates SBM – School-
- (d) Fee Remission
- (e) Refund of Government Rent

* The figures are projected based upon the projected subsidy received by the schools in 2001-02 financial year, subject to further information on the actual average student unit cost of aided secondary grammar place in the relevant year.

Bureau Serial No.

EMB108

Question Serial No.

0909

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
 4002 Secondary Education
 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : With regard to the \$500M “Capacity Enhancement Grant” disbursed by the Education Department to schools with effect from the 2000/01 school year for the purpose of creating more space to enhance their capacity, please give details on the following :

- (a) How many schools throughout the territory have submitted written proposals applying for this grant? How many applications have been approved? Is there any application which has been rejected? If yes, what are the reasons? What are the criteria for approval? How many schools have not yet applied for this grant?
- (b) What is the total amount of grant actually disbursed? What is the number of secondary and primary schools involved and how much have they received respectively?
- (c) How do schools make use of this grant? What are the actual uses? Please list out the major categories, including a breakdown of the uses, the additional staff employed, as well as the expenditure on procurement of services, materials and improvement works.

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

- (a) The Capacity Enhancement Grant (CEG) is released to a government or subvented school on condition that the school has submitted a plan on how to make use of the grant to enhance teachers’ capacity in implementing the education reform, and the plan has the endorsement of its School Management Committee after consultation with teachers. For the 2000/01 school year, a total of 1 199 schools has submitted the CEG plans. Only one school scheduled to close in September 2001 has not applied for this grant.

- (b) The total amount of grant actually disbursed in 2000-01 is \$496.66M and the breakdown is as follows :

Type	No. of Schools	Amount Disbursed/Received (\$M)
Primary	689	343.27
Secondary	437	122.84
Special	73	30.55
Total	1 199	496.66

- (c) According to the school plans, the schools use the CEG for the following purposes :

- (i) Employment of additional staff :

Use of CEG	Number of schools involved
Employment of teachers	354
Employment of teacher assistants, including IT technicians	1 023
Employment of clerical staff	547
Employment of administrative/executive personnel	94
Employment of other non-teaching personnel, such as psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists	445

- (ii) Procurement of services : 605 schools

The additional manpower and services will enhance the schools' capacity in one or more of the following three areas targetted by the CEG:

- (i) Curriculum development
- (ii) Enhancing students' language proficiency
- (iii) Coping with the diverse and special learning needs of students

At the end of the 2000/01 school year, information will be collected to analyze how schools actually make use of the CEG.

Signature	
Name in Block Letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB109

Question Serial No.

0910

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : How much resources have been allocated by the Government to assist primary and secondary schools in implementing Integrated Education? Please list out the number of primary and secondary schools joining this scheme and the expenditure items involved in the coming year. Moreover, will the Government provide funds to help schools improve their premises and facilities so as to implement the Code of Practice on Education under the “Disability Discrimination Ordinance”?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

Our policy is to help disabled children integrate into ordinary schools whenever possible. The Education Department provides a wide range of support services, as set out in the Annex, to these children who are attending ordinary schools. However, we do not have a breakdown of the resources for these services.

At present, there are 40 schools (31 primary and 9 secondary) adopting the whole-school approach in supporting children with hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical handicap, mild grade mental handicap or autistic disorder with average intelligence. The following additional resources are provided to these schools :

- (a) A non-recurrent grant \$50,000 is provided to schools for purchasing additional equipment for pupils or paying for minor works;
- (b) An annual recurrent grant of \$1,000 is provided to schools for each disabled pupil for organizing activities and supportive programmes;

- (c) An additional resource teacher at the Certificated Master/Mistress (CM) rank is provided for each school admitting five or more target pupils to support the implementation of integrated education; and
- (d) An additional teacher assistant is provided for each school admitting eight or more target pupils to assist the aforesaid resource teacher.

The funding earmarked for the programme in 2000-01 is \$22M and will increase by \$14.4M in 2001-02 to promote the whole-school approach to integration in another 25 schools (18 primary and 7 secondary).

Schools not participating in the above programme may apply for an incidental charges grant of \$700 per year for each disabled pupil (i.e. with hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical handicap, mild grade mental handicap or autistic disorder with average intelligence) admitted.

In compliance with the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), standard facilities for the disabled including lifts, ramps and special toilets are provided in all new schools planned in May 1997 or afterwards. Improvements are also made to existing schools through the School Improvement Programme by providing access facilities for the disabled where this is structurally feasible. Schools can also apply for funds under the annual repair exercise to carry out minor improvement works to provide the necessary access facilities.

Signature	
Name in Block Letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	19 March 2001

Services for Pupils with Disabilities in Ordinary Schools

1. Support Services for Pupils with Hearing Impairment

1.1 Special Classes for hearing-impaired pupils

Severely and profoundly hearing-impaired pupils who have acquired some basic language and communication skills but still have serious difficulties following the regular curriculum attend special classes with a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:10. They attend academic subject lessons, speech and auditory training in a separate class with special education teachers but mix with their hearing peers in all other cultural subjects and social activities.

1.2 Peripatetic Advisory Service

Pupils with moderate to profound hearing impairment and who have acquired sufficient language skills are integrated in the ordinary classes. Inspectors (1:100 pupils) from the Education Department visit schools to advise teachers and social workers on how to support these pupils.

1.3 Supportive Remedial Service

Pupils who are served by the Peripatetic Advisory Service but are grossly backward (by two years or more) in their academic attainment are also given Supportive Remedial Service provided by special schools for the deaf. Additional teachers for this service are provided at the ratio of 1:20 for primary school pupils and 1: 10 for secondary school pupils.

1.4 Professional advice

Audiologists of the Education Department also provide advice to pupils, teachers and parents on the use of hearing aids, ear moulds, special seating arrangements in the ordinary classroom and make recommendations on appropriate educational placement.

2. Support Services for Pupils with Visual Impairment

2.1 Special classes for visually-impaired pupils

Pupils are provided with special equipment to facilitate their learning, e.g. closed circuit television, magnifiers and special lights. They attend academic subject lessons in a special class with a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:15 and integrate with their sighted peers for other cultural subjects and social activities.

2.2 Programme for blind integrators

Visually-impaired pupils in ordinary schools are supported by a visiting resource teacher from a special school for the visually-impaired. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:8. The resource teachers advise ordinary teachers on teaching strategies, and help to prepare supplementary teaching materials such as Braille books and notes, Braille test/examination papers, and recorded tapes etc. They also pay weekly/ bi-weekly school visits to advise the pupils on the use of technical aids.

2.3 Centralized Braille Production Centre

Visually-impaired pupils can use the Braille reading materials produced by the Centralized Braille Production Centre (of the Hong Kong Society for the Blind) subvented by the Education Department.

2.4 Resource Help Service

Some visually-impaired integrators in ordinary schools are provided with Resource Help Service at the regional resource teaching centres. They receive small group remedial teaching on the three basic subjects and counselling on social adjustment once a week. Those who cannot come to the centres are visited by the resource teachers once every two weeks. Due advice to school heads, teachers and parents on the management of these pupils are given during the visits.

3. Support Services for Pupils with Physical Handicap

3.1 Resource Help Service

Physically handicapped pupils who are studying in ordinary schools but are backward in their basic subjects or have adjustment problems are visited by resource teachers from the Education Department at their respective schools every fortnight. They may also attend centre-based classes once a week. Teaching in basic learning skills and guidance on their social adjustment are provided. Schools and parents are also advised on their management of the pupils. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:23.

4. Support Services for Pupils with Mild Mental Handicap

4.1 Intensive Remedial Teaching Programme

Pupils assessed to be intellectually at the top of mild grade mental handicap range usually remain in ordinary schools. They receive intensive remedial support in the three basic subjects under the Intensive Remedial Teaching Programme. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:15.

4.2 Resource Teaching Centre

Pupils who have learning problems but are attending schools without Resource Classes are supported at the Resource Teaching Centre outside school hours. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:45.

5. Support Services for Pupils with Autism and Average Intelligence

5.1 Adjustment Programme

Pupils with social adjustment problems in schools are supported at the Special Education Services Centres on a part-time or full-time basis, depending on the severity of their problems. Pupils are usually discharged from the Adjustment Programme when their problems subside. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:8 .

Bureau Serial No.

EMB110

Question Serial No.

911

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : With the abolition of the Academic Aptitude Test and the reduction of secondary school places allocation bandings from 5 to 3, will the Government conduct follow-up study on the learning progress and development of students in the 3 bandings who are allocated to Chinese middle schools and English-medium schools? What is the estimated number of schools which will admit more Band 3 students and what support will be provided for such schools? Will the Government provide additional resources and support services for schools which admit more academically low achievers so that the schools may adapt to the change in the banding of students?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

With the number of the allocation bands being reduced from five to three, it is possible that the intake ability range of individual secondary schools may be widened. Since the allocation outcome depends on several factors including parental choice, we are unable at this stage to predict the number of schools which will admit more pupils of Band 3. The Government will conduct a longitudinal research to study the learning progress and development of students in primary and secondary schools after the change of the Secondary School Places Allocation Mechanism.

At present, secondary schools admitting a large number of academically low achievers are provided with additional resources and support. These include the provision of additional teachers and a recurrent grant for schools participating in the School-based Remedial Support Programme. In addition, the Education Department is providing professional support to teachers to cater for the diverse abilities of students, helping schools to develop school-based curriculum, providing exemplar resource materials to schools and disseminating effective teaching, learning and assessment practices among them. The additional resources and support will continue to be provided for schools in need.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB111

Question Serial No.

0912

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 Education Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700

Programme : 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Please explain why the provisions earmarked for items 300 and 301 under sub-head 700 were not used. What is the original date and purpose of approving such commitments, and how will the provisions be used in the future?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

The studies under S/H 700 Items 300 and 301 were recommended by the Board of Education Subcommittee on Special Education (BoE SCSE). The two commitments were approved under delegated authority in November 1997.

Item 300 was to commission a study on the remedial teaching services for students with learning difficulties or weak academic performance. Since the preparation of the draft estimates, we have reviewed the need for the study and decided not to proceed further as its scope has already been covered by another on-going consultancy.

Item 301 was for a project to evaluate the intelligence test used locally and to review the referral and placement procedures for children with special educational needs. Invitations had been sent to all local potential tenderers but there was only one response which could not meet all the requirements. Re-issuance of invitation to overseas tenderers is planned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title _____ Director of Education

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB112

Question Serial No.

0913

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40-Education Department

Subhead : 700-General other
Non-recurrent

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
4002 Secondary Education
4003 Special Education
4004 Departmental Support
4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide the dates of approval for the approved commitments under Items 314, 315 and 319 of Sub-head 700, the purpose of these commitments and how such funds will be used in future.

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

- i. The commitment of \$6.96M under item 314 was approved in October 1998 to provide in-service training courses for teachers in schools admitting at least one class of territory-wide bottom 25% S1 pupils during the period 1999/2000 to 2001/2002 school years. The course aims at enhancing teachers' skills and techniques in preventing and handling disruptive behaviour of students in the classroom, raising pupils' self-esteem, and modifying curriculum and teaching strategies to cater for individual needs. The Hong Kong Institute of Education has been commissioned to organize the training course. As in previous years, the Department will invite interested teachers to attend this course in the 2001/2002 school year.
- ii. The provision of \$4.8M under item 315, approved under delegated authority in November 1998, was earmarked for policy-related researches to be undertaken by the Board of Education (BoE). In 2000, the BoE/Standing Committee on Language Education and Research Working Group on Medium of Instruction spent an amount of about \$0.155M conducting a questionnaire survey to collect views on the Medium of Instruction policy. The BoE's Working Group on Promoting Parent Education is

currently conducting a consultancy study to assess the needs of parents with children aged from 0 to 15 years. The study will be completed by the end of 2001 at an estimated cost of \$1M. The BoE will undertake other research studies where necessary with the remaining provisions.

iii. The approved commitment of \$22.36M under item 319 was approved by the Finance Committee in November 1998, to conduct a study on strategies to cope with individual differences in academic abilities of primary school pupils. Of this provision, a total of \$6.8M is reserved for consultancy services for developing the strategies and conducting a 3-year longitudinal study in 14 primary schools on the effectiveness of the strategies. The remaining \$15.56M is reserved for provision of non-recurrent grants over three years to the participating schools for the purchase of additional resources such as reference materials, teaching aids, etc, and the employment of temporary teaching and clerical staff for the implementation of the strategies and for contingency purposes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB113

Question Serial No.

0914

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department

Subhead : 700 – General other Non-recurrent

Programme : 4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : With regard to schools which have been paid the one-off transition furniture and equipment grant, please give details of the number of such schools which had incurred deficits in the past 2 years and the amount of deficits incurred by each school. How did the Government provide assistance to such schools?

Asked by : Hon Cheung Man-kwong

Reply :

Under the existing arrangements, schools may use various recurrent grants to procure furniture and equipment (F&E). For the purchase of major F&E items, schools have to apply annually for a non-recurrent subsidy. There is no question of schools incurring a deficit.

With effect from the 2001/02 school year, we will introduce a Composite Furniture and Equipment Grant (CFEG) for aided schools to replace various existing recurrent and non-recurrent F&E grants. We recognize that as a consequence, for schools which have been planning to seek a non-recurrent subsidy for major F&E purchases in the next year or so, they may not be able to accumulate the necessary funds to do so under CFEG within that timeframe. To address this problem and facilitate the schools' transition to the new scheme, we will give existing schools a one-off Transition Furniture & Equipment Grant in the 2001/02 school year for purchase of F&E items.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB114

Question Serial No.

0917

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What measures will be taken to strengthen the need for social work services in primary schools? When will the target “One School Social Worker for Each School” be achieved in primary schools?

Asked by : Hon SZETO Wah

Reply :

Student Guidance Officers/Teachers (SGOs/SGTs) are provided to help primary schools implement the Whole-school Approach to Guidance to address the social work service needs of primary students. They mainly focus on planning, organizing and implementing preventive and developmental whole school guidance programmes for pupils in collaboration with teachers in schools. They also collaborate with other social services providers in the community to support pupils and their parents.

The Government has over the years been improving the ratio of pupils to SGOs/SGTs, from 2500:1 in 1992/93 to 2250:1 in 1997/98, 2000:1 in 1998/99 and 1680:1 in 1999/2000. We are now reviewing the student guidance service in primary schools, and various improvement options will be considered.

In addition to the above, we will extend, in 2001-02, the Understanding Adolescent Project to upper primary pupils on a pilot basis. We expect the pilot to run over five years. The first year or so will be used to develop the screening tools and the primary preventive programmes. The project will then be progressively introduced to participating primary schools over the following years. We aim to extend the project to about 400 primary schools by the final year of the pilot. We estimate that the pilot will cost about \$90M.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB115

Question Serial No.

1233

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & Title) :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

How many classes and schools still adopt floating classes in the 2000/01 and 2001/02 school years? Is there any provision earmarked for measures aimed at reducing the number of floating classes? What are these measures?

Asked by : Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply :

In the 2000/01 school year, there are 54 floating classes at Secondary 1 to 5 levels in 28 public sector secondary schools. We estimate that there will still be 37 floating classes at Secondary 1 to 5 levels in 17 public sector secondary schools in the 2001/02 school year. These remaining floating classes will be abolished by 2003 through provision of more classrooms under the School Improvement Programme and restructuring of classes. About HK\$60 million has been reserved for the provision of additional classrooms for this purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB116

Question Serial No.

1234

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide supplementary information on the following matters requiring special attention in 2001-02 :

- (a) In the coming year, how many primary schools will be provided with teachers specially assigned to co-ordinate library services and support the Extensive Reading Schemes?
- (b) The Government will strengthen support services for academically low achievers in primary schools. What are the services being provided? How many teachers are involved? What will be the amount of expenditure?

Asked by : Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply :

- (a) Since the 1998/99 school year, we have been introducing by phases teacher-librarians into government and aided primary schools to enhance library services and to co-ordinate the implementation of different reading schemes. In the coming school year, about 170 primary schools will each be allocated one teacher-librarian.
- (b) The Education Department is providing a range of remedial services to primary students who are identified as having learning difficulties. These services include ordinary remedial teaching service, Intensive Remedial Teaching Programmes, peripatetic teaching service at school, remedial support outside school hours in resource teaching centres; and an advisory service for heads and teachers on student support.

Since 1982, ordinary remedial teaching is provided to all primary students with learning difficulties, which entail an increase of teacher to class ratio from 1.1:1 to 1.2:1.

For primary students with severe learning difficulties, the School-based Intensive Remedial Teaching Programmes provide intensive support in English, Chinese and Mathematics. The number of such programmes provided each school year depends on the demand for this service. In the 2000/01 school year, there are 734 resource teachers serving a total of 11 010 students. It is planned that 900 additional student places will be provided under this programme in the 2001/02 school year, with an estimated additional expenditure of \$24.1M.

In addition to the above support services, starting from the 2000/01 school year, public sector primary schools are provided with a Capacity Enhancement Grant at a rate of \$550,00 per annum for those with 19 or more classes and \$450,000 per annum for those with less than 19 classes. Schools may use the grant flexibly to relieve teachers' workload so that teachers will have enhanced capacity to concentrate on the education reform, including coping with the diverse and special learning needs of students.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB117

Question Serial No.

1235

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide further information on the following gifted development programmes :

- (a) Please provide the number of schools which have started school-based gifted development programmes and the number of students participating in these programmes. Is there any support provided to these schools? What are the resources and expenditure involved?
- (b) At present, how many schools and students are taking part in the enrichment programmes for gifted children? What is the difference between such programmes and school-based gifted development programmes?

Asked by : Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply :

- (a) School-based gifted development programmes are meant for all schools to help develop gifted children to their full potential. A pilot version of these programmes, the Cluster School Gifted Project, provides intensive consultative support to 12 primary and 8 secondary schools. The top 2% - 4% of their students, about 360 – 720 students, from these schools are involved in the project. There will be a total of 24 primary and 12 secondary schools by the end of the pilot project. In support, an Operation Guide as well as web-based teacher training packages supplemented with exemplars, training seminars and workshops will be provided. Part of the manpower resources for these supportive measures are met by internal redeployment within the Education Department. A project grant of \$10M was allocated from the Quality Education Fund to conduct the pilot project. Schools are also encouraged to make use of the Capacity Enhancement Grant introduced with effect from the 2000/01 school year to devise school-based strategies to cope with the needs of their gifted students.

In addition, the Government has also earmarked \$10M in 2001-02 for the further development of gifted education.

/.....(b)

- (b) There are currently 1 121 students coming from 234 schools enrolled in the enrichment programmes provided at the Fung Hon Chu Gifted Education Centre. These enrichment programmes are pullout programmes that take place outside the schools. They are held on an experimental basis, providing schools with references and first hand experience in developing strategies as well as curriculum materials for the design of school-based gifted development programmes. Enrichment programmes are targeted centre-based programmes while the school-based gifted development programmes are more general in nature. The latter are designed to suit the characteristics of individual schools, taking care of their students' diverse needs, and are suitable for use in everyday classes or in extended programmes conducted after school.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

Question Serial No.

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head: 40 – Education Department

Subhead:

Programme: 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer: Director of Education

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question: Please provide the number of applicants for adult education courses subvented by the Education Department in 1999/2000 and 2000/01, so as to compare with the actual number of participants.

Asked by: Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply: According to the statistics submitted by the subvented organizations, the number of participants for courses organized under the Adult Education Subvention Scheme in the 1999/2000 school year was 26 820. The figures for the 2000/01 school year are not yet available. ED does not keep records on the number of applicants for these courses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB119

Question Serial No.

1237

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department
Development

Subhead (No. & title) : 164 – Curriculum
Institute

Programme : 400

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : How many non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff are there in the Curriculum Development Institute (CDI) at present? What is the proportion of NCSC staff to the total number of staff in CDI? How many additional NCSC staff will be employed in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply :

Out of the 350 staff of CDI, 142 are employed under the NCSC terms. This represents 40.57% of the total number. Two additional NCSC staff will be employed in the coming year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB120

Question Serial No.

1238

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Under the performance measures in respect of secondary education in public sector schools, the “Basic” level is used to assess the level of IT competency of secondary school teachers. With regard to this point, will the Government inform this Council:

- a) What are the assessment criteria for the “Basic” level?
- b) What measures have been taken by the Government to ensure that the percentage of teachers reaching this level will be increased from 60% in 1999/2000 to 100% in 2000/01 as shown in the Indicators under this programme?
- c) What is the expenditure on training for this purpose in 2000/01?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

- a) Teachers attain the basic level of IT competency if they are able to demonstrate that they possess basic skills and knowledge in the operations of computer for teaching and learning, and the ability to use readily available educational software. School-based assessment of portfolio prepared by individual teachers is the recommended mode of assessment. The portfolio contains the teacher’s lesson plans with examples of simple slide show, downloaded materials from the internet and the use of an educational courseware, together with his review of the effectiveness of the use of IT in teaching and learning. The portfolio is to be sent by e-mail to the school head or any training provider commissioned by ED to conduct the assessment. Schools, if they so wish, could use other forms of assessment.
- b) Various measures are being implemented to support all school heads and teachers to attain the basic level of IT competency by the end of the 2000/01 school year. The quality of the service provided by the eight training providers commissioned by ED are closely monitored. VCDs containing sample portfolios for various subjects are

distributed to schools for teachers' reference. In addition, a Portfolio Resource Corner is set up in the ED and in the ED homepage, and 12 regional seminars are organized to introduce the portfolio assessment mechanism. Teachers are also encouraged to seek advice from training providers on preparation of their portfolios. ED collects statistics quarterly from schools on the number of teachers attaining the basic level of IT competency.

- c) Cash grants for the provision of teacher training at the basic level of IT competency have already been fully disbursed in 1999-2000. No further expenditure will be incurred in 2000-01.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB121

Question Serial No.

1239

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

The Education Department has set out the minimum requirements for the procurement of IT facilities in government and aided secondary schools. What are the facilities bound by these requirements?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

Schools are given the flexibility to purchase IT equipment to meet their own needs. However, each school is required to meet the minimum requirement of IT provision, which includes a local area network connecting school's computer room, staff room(s) and library; plus minimum requirement of the entitled number of desktop and/or notebook computers (i.e. on average, 28 computers for primary schools with 24 classes, 58 computers for secondary schools with 30 classes and 15 computers for special schools with 10 classes), on or before 31 May 2001.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB122

Question Serial No.

1240

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

The Education Department will provide special schools with IT facilities, teacher training and professional support in 2001-02 to promote the use of IT in education. Please elaborate on the details of this plan. What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

All special schools have been provided with cash grant in acquiring IT facilities starting in June 1999. At present, all special schools, except Hong Chi Pinehill No. 3 School under re-provisioning, have received cash grants to build a network connecting the computer room, staff room(s), and library. In 2001-02, around \$7M will be spent on the provision of IT and network facilities for special schools. In addition, they are provided with resources to connect to the Internet. In 2001-02, \$3.2M are earmarked for this purpose.

In addition, all special schools have been provided with IT training cash grant for their teachers to attend training courses at 'Basic', 'Intermediate', and 'Upper Intermediate' levels since the 1998/99 school year. In the 2001/02 school year, one to two teachers in each special school will attend the 'Advanced' level IT training course. Refresher Training courses on general IT skills and on the use of IT to enhance subject teaching and learning will also be conducted in 2001-02. The estimated expenditure for all these IT teacher training for 2001-02 is around \$4.2M.

Contract technical support service has been made available to schools since February 2000 to support schools in implementing their own IT plan. The estimated expenditure in 2001-02 for the provision of Technical Support Services for special schools is around \$6.2M.

Separately, 14 special schools have each been provided with the IT co-ordinator post for two years under an IT co-ordinator scheme of ED. Resources earmarked in the 2001-02 financial year is \$5.7M. Another ten schools are provided with the post for two years with the funding support of the Quality Education Fund, involving \$4.4M.

A project named “The *Computer Education in Special Schools Project*” has been launched since 1989 to assist special schools to implement computer education. The Education Department provides curriculum support and curriculum grants to each special school to purchase educational software packages and consumable items. The estimated expenditure in 2001-02 is \$0.4M.

Exemplar software packages and web-based resource materials will continue to be developed to illustrate the use of IT in teaching and learning at classroom level. The Hong Kong Education City will also collaborate with the Special Education Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Special Schools Council to offer additional web-based teaching and learning resources and related information to special schools. The estimated expenditure for resource development is around \$1.1M.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB123

Question Serial No.

1241

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

The Education Department has planned to increase the provision for hiring contract technical support and maintenance services for IT in education in 2001/02. What is the total amount of provision?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The estimated expenditure in 2001-02 for the provision of contract technical support services to schools is around \$155.8M, and that for IT equipment maintenance is around \$53.3M.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB124

Question Serial No.

1242

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Proper use of information technology (IT) in teaching would help to enhance students' interest in learning. What measures will be taken by the Government to encourage and enhance the use of IT in teaching and learning in schools?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The Government launched a five-year strategy on IT in education in November 1998. Under the strategy, we have provided resources, including IT facilities, teacher training and contract technical support services, to encourage and support schools in using IT to strengthen teaching and learning. In addition, the following measures have been taken to support IT in education –

- Through concerted efforts of schools, teachers, the business sectors and the ED, the Hong Kong Education City will play a leading role in promoting the use of IT in education and fostering the IT culture in Hong Kong.
- Exemplar software packages and web-based resource materials to illustrate to schools the use of IT in teaching and learning across the curriculum will continue to be developed and uploaded to the Hong Kong Education City for the benefit of teachers and students.

- The ED will continue to participate in the organisation of IT exhibitions, symposiums, expos and conferences and to sponsor school teachers to participate. The ultimate goal is to keep the teachers abreast of the latest trend of using IT in education and to broaden their scope of IT knowledge.
- Talks to District Heads Conference will continue to be conducted on a district basis to disseminate the policy objectives and practical means to promote IT in education at the school level.
- Based on the positive feedbacks so far, school-based group visits and development programmes will continue to be organised for individual schools.
- Modelled on our successful events organized so far, more student-based projects and competitions will be organised to promote the importance and use of IT in daily life.

Separately, the Quality Education Fund has provided funding support to innovative school-based projects to promote IT in education. A total of 632 projects has been approved, involving about \$700M.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB125

Question Serial No.

1243

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40-Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4005 Other Direct Services and subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the provision for kindergartens and pre-primary education will be increased, so as to provide additional kindergartens, improve the teacher-to-pupil ratio by three phases and enhance teacher training. Please inform this Council:

- a) The details of joining the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme e.g. the eligibility criteria.
- b) What is the expected increase in the number of pupils upon lowering of the admission age of kindergartens?
- c) What is the average class size of kindergartens at present?

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

- a) The Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme was introduced in September 1995 to minimize the impact of fee increases on parents as a result of Government's new regulatory requirements to improve the quality of kindergarten education. The rate of subsidy for the 2000/01 school year is \$41,000 per class per annum.

Non-profit-making kindergartens fulfilling the following conditions are eligible to apply for the subsidy:

- (1) meeting the requirement of 60% Qualified Kindergarten Teachers;
- (2) charging a fee level lower than the cut-off point (1.5 times the weighted average school fees of non-profit-making kindergartens); and
- (3) complying with the Education Ordinance and Regulations in force and maintaining an acceptable operating standard in both management and professional aspects.

After joining the Scheme, the kindergartens have to observe the following requirements:-

- (1) paying teachers' salaries according to the recommended salary scales for kindergarten teachers;
 - (2) accepting any adjustment made by the Government of the approved school fees corresponding to the amount of Government subsidy received;
 - (3) spending the Government subsidy solely on salaries of teachers; and
 - (4) submission of necessary accounting documents.
- b) Some 23 000 pupils would be eligible for early admission into kindergartens at the start of the 2001/02 school year as a result of the lowering of the admission age.
- c) The average number of pupils per class in kindergartens for the 2000/01 school year is 20.3.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB126

Question Serial No.

1244

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Indicator (d) reveals that there is no improvement in the student/teacher ratio. What are the reasons? What measures will be taken by the Government to improve the ratio?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The student/teacher ratio in public sector secondary schools remains the same in 2000/01 and 2001/02 because both the numbers of students and teachers are estimated to increase by the same proportion.

However, other financial provisions in the form of flexible block grants have been given to schools to enhance their capacity in supporting learning and teaching activities. For example, the Capacity Enhancement Grant has provided schools the needed fund for employing extra personnel to facilitate learning and teaching in schools.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB127

Question Serial No.

1245

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department **Subhead :**

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : According to the Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme, the Education Department will continue to promote the use of Chinese as the medium of instruction. Please elaborate on the details.

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Administration has been providing support measures for schools which adopt Chinese as the medium of instruction (CMI), including measures which aim to ensure students' English standard while learning through CMI. These measures include the provision of the following to CMI schools :

	Improvement measure	Estimated expenditure in 2001-02 (\$M)
(a)	additional English teachers	24.000
(b)	a recurrent English Language Grant for purchasing English learning materials and teaching aids and for organizing extra-curricular activities in support of English learning	0.633
(c)	resources to carry out works to enable split-class teaching	3.299
(d)	one-off library grant for purchase of additional reading materials	0.090
(e)	additional wireless induction loop system to enhance language learning through listening	0.046
(f)	one-off initial grant for employing temporary clerical staff, and for purchasing and preparing teaching materials in Chinese	0.775

In addition, the Language Fund and the Quality Education Fund have been providing funding to projects which support the use of Chinese as the medium of instruction. For example, the two Funds supported the setting up and operation of the CMI Support Centre which provides training for teachers, support in the production of teaching materials and other professional assistance.

Signature	_____
Name in Block Letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB128

Question Serial No.

1246

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : According to the Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme, measures to enhance language proficiency of students will be developed and implemented. Is the pilot scheme on Two-mode Instruction in Secondary Schools, which is currently under study, being included in the above measures?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The purpose of the study in question has been explained in the Administration's reply to an oral question raised in the Legislative Council on 13 December 2000 and in a motion debate on 7 February 2001. The study has yet to start and it is premature to say at this juncture whether the study will result in any recommendation on concrete measures to enhance students' language proficiency.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB129

Question Serial No.

1247

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What progress has been made in the building projects for special school reprovisioning and extension programmes?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The progress of existing reprovisioning, redevelopment and extension projects for special schools is tabulated as follows:-

School Name	Location	School Type	Project Nature	Expected Completion Date	Progress
Buddhist Po Kwong School	Tin Sum Village, Fanling	Mildly and Moderately Mentally Handicapped	Reprovisioning to an adjacent site at Tin Sum Village, Fanling	March 2001	Just completed and handed over.
Ngau Tau Kok Holy Word School	Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate	Mildly Mentally Handicapped	Reprovisioning to Yau Tong Estate Phase 5, Kwun Tong	mid April 2001	Nearing completion. Pre-hand over meeting will be held in early April 2001.
Hong Chi Winifred Mary Cheung Morninghope School	220 Lai King Hill Road, Kwai Chung, N.T.	Mildly & Moderately Mentally Handicapped	Extension under School Improvement Programme, Phase 3	April 2001	On schedule.

School Name	Location	School Type	Project Nature	Expected Completion Date	Progress
Hong Chi Morninghope School, Wu King	Wu King Estate, Tuen Mun	Mildly Mentally Handicapped	Reprovisioning to Area 3C, Tuen Mun	August 2001	On schedule.
Pelletier School	N.K.I.L. 6010 Clearwater Bay Road, Kowloon	School for Social Development	Extension under School Improvement Programme, Phase 3	September 2001	On schedule.
Shatin Public School	15 Chik Fai Street, Tai Wai, Shatin	Mildly Mentally Handicapped	Extension under School Improvement Programme, Phase 3	September 2002	On schedule.
Hong Chi Pinehill School	Nam Hang, Tai Po	Moderately Mentally Handicapped	In-situ Redevelopment	April 2003	Decanting arrangement settled. Existing building will soon be demolished after upgrading to Cat. A.
Hong Chi Pinehill No. 3 School	Nam Hang, Tai Po	Severely Mentally Handicapped	In-situ Redevelopment	April 2003	Decanting arrangement in progress. Existing building to be demolished after upgrading to Cat. A.
Hong Chi Morninglight School, Wah Fu	Wah Fu Estate, Hong Kong	Moderately Mentally Handicapped	Reprovisioning to Ma Tin Road, Yuen Long	July 2003	Preliminary Project Feasibility Study completed.
Margaret Trench Red Cross School	Sandy Bay Road, Hong Kong	Physically Handicapped	Reprovisioning to Ngau Chi Wan, Wong Tai Sin	December 2003	Preliminary Project Feasibility Study under preparation.
Society of Boys' Centre – Shing Tak Centre School	Shing Tak Street, Tokwawan	School for Social Development	Reprovisioning to Lee On Road, Shun Lee Tsuen, Kwun Tong	July 2004	Revised Preliminary Project Feasibility Study under preparation.

There are also four special schools in School Improvement Programme (SIP) phase 4 and another 40 in the final phase. The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved on 9 February 2001 the cost of improvement works for schools in phase 4 as well as the costs for the pre-construction works for the schools in the final phase. Improvement works for all schools in phase 4 will be completed by mid-2003. Feasibility studies for schools in the final phase will be completed in stages starting from end 2001. We expect all the studies to be completed by end 2002. Actual construction works will also be staggered over time and it is anticipated that the earliest commencement date will be around mid-2002. We aim to complete the entire SIP by the 2004/05 school year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB130

Question Serial No.

1248

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Are there sufficient special school places to meet the needs of the community? If not, please provide figures to explain.

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

At present, there are sufficient special school places to meet the needs of the community. The planned provision of special school places for the 2000/01 and 2001/02 school years are 8 957 and 9 113 respectively. Six children now receiving service in child care centres are wait-listed for places in a special school of their parents' choice, despite the fact that there are existing vacancies in other special schools of the same category.

Signature

Name in Block Letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB131

Question Serial No.

1249

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Other Direct Services and Subvention

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Induction Programme and the school-based support services have been extended to include newly arrived non-Chinese speaking children and returnee children, but no additional resources have been provided by the Government. In this respect, will the Government inform this Council :

1. What kind of new services will be provided under this measure?
2. How to ensure that the quality of such services will not be affected without additional resources?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

From 2000-01, the School-based Support Scheme and the Induction Programme run by non-government organizations for newly arrived children from the Mainland (NAC) have been extended to include newly arrived non-Chinese speaking (NCS) children and returnee children. An additional \$6.4 million has been budgeted for this purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB132

Question Serial No.

1250

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 3 - Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Please give an account of the enrolment situation of the 4 practical schools and 7 skills opportunity schools respectively. Is there any plan for mainstreaming these schools? What is the progress achieved? What support has been rendered by the Government and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

The enrolment situation in the 4 practical schools and 7 skills opportunity schools as at February 2001 were 77.1% and 65.4% respectively.

The Board of Education Subcommittee on Special Education completed a review on the future development of practical schools and skills opportunity schools in early 2000. The review recommended the mainstreaming of all the practical schools and the retention of a maximum of four skills opportunity schools in the interim pending full mainstreaming in the long run. The recommendations were endorsed by the Board of Education. Following thorough consultation with the school sponsoring bodies and school staff, all the 4 practical schools and 4 out of the 7 skills opportunity schools have tentatively indicated their intention to start mainstreaming at Secondary 1 level from the 2002/03 school year.

In the light of the individual school's situation and needs, each school has worked out a broad implementation plan. To ensure a smooth transition, the Education Department has set up school-based task forces comprising officers from the Education Department, school heads and representatives from the sponsoring bodies and school staff, to plan the future class structure, redesign the core curriculum and advise on the facilities and student admission matters. Based on the deliberations of each task force, support measures will be formulated and resources sought to facilitate implementation, which includes conversion work to upgrade school facilities where necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB133

Question Serial No.

1251

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4003 Special Education
4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : At present, how many special schools have referral service for receiving students from mainstream schools? How many school places are provided? How effective is the service? What follow-up remedial services will be provided to students returning to mainstream schools? Will the referral service be extended? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

In the 2000/01 school year, there are 7 schools for social development (SSD) providing transitional support services to students with moderate to severe emotional and behavioural problems from mainstream schools. These schools provide a maximum of 945 school places.

The overall evaluation of the services provided by SSDs is positive. Students have made progress in areas such as attitude towards learning, self-discipline, teacher-student relationship and peer relationship. The skills of mainstream school staff in supporting these students are also strengthened in the process through collaboration with SSD.

For students returning to mainstream schools, SSD provide follow-up services which include counselling for the students and the parents. The close collaboration with mainstream school personnel and parents helps sustain the healthy development of students on their return to mainstream schools.

At present, there are adequate places in existing SSD to meet the demand. The enrolment as at 15.2.2001 was 756. We will keep the services provided by SSDs and the demand for school places under review.

Signature	_____
Name in Block Letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB134

Question Serial No.

1252

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4003 Special Education
4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : How many educational psychologists are now in employment with the Education Department? What kind of schools and students are they serving? What is the nature of their service and what is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

There are 34 Educational Psychologists (EPs) in the Education Department. They serve students of primary, secondary, special, practical and skills opportunity schools.

Services provided by EPs to schools include assessment and guidance to students with learning, behavioural or emotional difficulties and support to teachers and parents, training, consultation and support to schools to facilitate teachers in their management of students' problems, development of students' potential, and crisis management. EPs are also involved in research work and policy support, including promotion and development of the whole-school approach to integration, design and production of guidance kits on prevention of student suicide, and research and production of assessment tools for children with specific learning difficulties in reading and writing. EPs also act as supervisors and mentors of EP trainees during the latter's placement in the Department.

The current staffing cost of the EPs is \$23.1M per annum.

Signature	_____
Name in Block Letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB135

Question Serial No.

1253

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : (5) Other Direct Services and Subvention

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please list out the existing measures taken by the Education Department to provide discipline and guidance services for primary and secondary schools. What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

Schools usually assign their senior teachers to deal with student discipline and guidance work. Moreover, schools adopting the Whole School Approach to Guidance and Discipline involve all their teaching staff in providing guidance and discipline services.

At present, the Government provides one student guidance officer/teacher for every 1 680 primary students. We now have a total of 293 student guidance officers/teachers in service.

In the 2001/02 school year, the Education Department will provide the following support measures on discipline and guidance service for primary schools :

	Measures	Estimated expenditure (\$M)
(a)	Discipline Teacher Training	1.60
(b)	Student Guidance Teacher Training	absorbed by ED's staff cost
(c)	Programme Funds for Whole School Approach to Guidance and Discipline	3.34

The Education Department will also provide the following support measures on discipline and guidance service for secondary schools in the 2001/02 school year :

	Measures	Estimated expenditure (\$M)
(a)	Discipline Teacher Training	1.50
(b)	Career and Guidance Teacher Training	1.81
(c)	Programme Funds for Whole School Approach to Guidance and Discipline	2.74
(d)	Discipline Programmes for Students	3.01

In addition, the Government currently provides one social worker for each secondary school.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

Post Title

Date

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Director of Education

20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB136

Question Serial No.

1254

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4003 Special Education
4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Will the Government consider providing senior secondary school places in schools for social development? If yes, what are the plans and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply :

At present, eligible Secondary 3 graduates of schools for social development (SSD) are allocated Secondary 4 places in ordinary schools through the Junior Secondary Education Assessment. The Government is now reviewing the case for providing senior secondary school places in SSD.

Signature

Name in Block Letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB137

Question Serial No.

1255

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40-Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
 4002 Secondary Education
 4003 Special Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please give a breakdown of the various expenditure items related to the training, examination and exemption of the Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers. What specific measures will be taken by the Government to enable all language teachers to meet the language proficiency requirement by 2006?

Asked by : Hon Cheung Man-kwong

Reply :

The Administration has so far developed and implemented the Language Proficiency Requirements only for teachers of English and Putonghua. Serving teachers may satisfy the requirements through one or a combination of the three avenues below :-

- (a) Training: an annual recurrent provision of \$68 million during these few years has been earmarked to provide training subsidy for serving English and Putonghua teachers and for providing supply teachers where a teacher opts to take a training course which takes place outside Hong Kong;
- (b) Assessment: the open Language Proficiency Assessments are jointly administered by the Hong Kong Examinations Authority (HKEA) and the Education Department (ED). An annual provision of \$7.3 million has been budgeted for the assessments to be conducted by HKEA and related expenditure. The costs to be incurred by the ED will be absorbed within ED's overall provision;

- (c) Exemption: all the costs relating to the administration of exemption applications will be absorbed within ED's overall provision.

The Administration will continue to take measures to help serving teachers meet the Language Proficiency Requirements by 2006, including :-

- (a) obtaining from schools a five-year holistic staff development plan and, on that basis, planning ahead the provision of training places to meet serving teachers' demand;
- (b) collecting feedback from teachers and training institutes to ensure that the training courses meet teachers' needs (e.g., encouraging schools and training institutes to organise school-based training); and
- (c) encouraging schools to facilitate teachers' attendance of training courses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB138

Question Serial No.

1256

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) : 150 Teacher training

Programme : 4001 Primary Education
 4002 Secondary Education
 4003 Special Education
 4004 Departmental Support
 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please give a breakdown of the provision under Subhead 150 Teacher training? What were the amount and percentage of increase for this provision in the past three years?

Asked by : Hon Cheung Man-kwong

Reply : The breakdown on actual expenditure from 1998-99 to 1999-2000, the revised estimates for 2000-01 and the draft estimates for 2001-02 of Subhead 150 Teacher training is as follows:

	Actual Expenditure 1998-99	Actual Expenditure 1999-2000	Revised Estimates 2000-01	Draft Estimates 2001-02
	(\$m)	(\$m) % increase / decrease	(\$m) % increase / decrease	(\$m) % increase / decrease
1. Languages	5.8	5.3 (- 9%)	5.5 (+4%)	65.3 (+1087%)
2. IT refresher courses	0	3.5	15.9 (+354%)	15.9 (0%)
3. School-based training ^{Note 1}	0.9	3.7 (+311%)	4.9 (+32%)	8.7 (+78%)
4. Civic education	0.6	0 (-100%)	1.5	1.5 (0%)
5. Music, arts and crafts	0	3.5	5.5 (+57%)	5.5 (0%)
6. Career guidance and student discipline	4.3	4.0 (-7%)	4.8 (+20%)	4.9 (+2%)

	Actual Expenditure 1998-99	Actual Expenditure 1999-2000	Revised Estimates 2000-01	Draft Estimates 2001-02
	(\$m)	(\$m) % increase / decrease	(\$m) % increase / decrease	(\$m) % increase / decrease
7. Training for professional development of teachers	10.3	8.3 (-19%)	10.2 (+23%)	8.7 (-15%) ^{Note 2}
8. Pre-service QKG training and principal-ship training courses	0	0	3	12.2 (+307%)
9. Training places for kindergarten principals and teachers	24.4 ^{Note 3}	0	0	0
10. Others	2.0	3.3 (+65%)	3.6 (+9%)	2.7 (-25%)
Total	48.3	31.6 (-35%)	54.9 (+74%)	125.4 (+128%)

Note 1: School-based training is training for principals and school managers.

Note 2: The decrease in provision is mainly due to the introduction of a teachers' training grant, for which a provision of \$2.56 million is separately included under Subhead 185, 300, 305 and 320.

Note 3: The provision has been transferred to the University Grants Committee's head of expenditure since 1999-2000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB139

Question Serial No.

1257

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4004 Departmental supporting

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : With regard to the moral and ethical problems emerging among primary and secondary students recently,

- (a) How much resources have been earmarked in 2001-02 to enhance the promotion of civic education in primary and secondary schools? What additional resources will be provided to foster communication between schools and parents, so as to promote civic education among students?
- (b) Does the Government have any specific measures and time schedule for promoting sex education?

Asked by : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply :

- (a) A total of \$12.47M has been earmarked in 2001-02 to enhance the promotion of civic and moral education in schools. In this regard, the Education Department will
 - Organise a total of 32 in-service teacher enhancement courses on various themes of civic/moral education for 960 primary and secondary school principals and teachers;
 - Produce 3 CD-ROMs and 2 teaching and learning packages on values building;
 - Organise visits for primary and secondary school students;
 - Conduct a research on good practices to promote awareness of national identity among students;
 - Organise a series of student competitions(e.g. comics strips, radio situation dramas, etc.) to arouse awareness of positive values amongst students;
 - Produce a series of radio and TV programmes on positive values;
 - Present dramas on moral education themes in 100 primary and secondary schools; and
 - Organise seminars and workshops to facilitate creating teacher networks for experience sharing.
 - Provide grants to schools to organise school-based civic education programmes.

/....Schools

To foster communication between schools and parents, a total of \$9.7M will be allocated to the Committee on Home-School Cooperation to organise various related activities in 2001-02. In addition, we have earmarked a capital sum of \$50M to further strengthen home-school co-operation programmes and parent education. We will seek funding approval of the Finance Committee by mid-2001.

- (b) For 2001-02, there will be theme-based seminars and workshops for teachers, and the Department has also commissioned the Family Planning association of Hong Kong to run teacher development programmes on general sex education courses. As for curriculum support materials, an internet sex education programme, "Youth Sex Chatroom (談 Teen 說性)" will be organised in April 2001 and a teaching kit on "Implementing Sex Education through the Science Curriculum" for junior secondary students will be available in September 2001. The Department will also convert the existing sex education resources into electronic format in 2001-02. These resources will be made available to student, teachers, parents, and the general public through the internet.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB140

Question Serial No.

1258

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 40 - Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4001 Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

How much resources have been earmarked to strengthen the support services for academically low achievers in primary schools?

Asked by : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply :

The Education Department is providing a range of remedial services to primary students who are identified as having learning difficulties. These services include ordinary remedial teaching service, Intensive Remedial Teaching Programmes, peripatetic teaching service at school, remedial support outside school hours in resource teaching centres; and an advisory service for heads and teachers on student support.

Since 1982, ordinary remedial teaching is provided to all primary students with learning difficulties, which entail an increase of teacher to class ratio for 1.1:1 to 1.2:1.

For primary students with severe learning difficulties, the School-based Intensive Remedial Teaching Programme provides intensive support in English, Chinese and Mathematics. The number of such programmes provided each school year depends on the demand for this service. In the 2000/01 school year, there are 734 resource teachers serving a total of 11 010 students. It is planned that 900 additional places will be provided under this programme in the 2001/02 school year, with an estimated additional expenditure of \$24.1 million.

In addition to the above support services, starting from the 2000/01 school year, public sector primary schools are provided with a Capacity Enhancement Grant at a rate of \$550,000 per annum for those with 19 or more classes and \$450,000 per annum for those with less than 19 classes. Schools may use the grant flexibly to relieve teachers' workload so that teachers will have enhanced capacity to concentrate on the education reform, including coping with the diverse and special learning needs of students.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB141

Question Serial No.

1259

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : How does the government ensure that there are sufficient secondary one to seven school places, especially in developing regions such as North District?

Asked by : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply : The Government's policy is to provide nine-year free and universal basic education and subsidized senior secondary education. According to the current planning parameters, primary school places are planned on a district basis to obviate the need for young pupils to travel a long distance to attend schools, whereas secondary school places are planned on a territory-wide basis. As far as possible, and subject to the availability of suitable sites, new secondary schools are built to meet local demand. Between now and the 2007/08 school year, a total of 37 new secondary schools has been planned throughout the territory to meet the forecast demand of secondary school places. As far as the North district is concerned, one new secondary school will come on stream in the 2003/04 school year, with another one in the 2005/06 school year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB142

Question Serial No.

1260

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40-Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : How much resources have been earmarked by the Government to formulate and implement measures to enhance language proficiency?

Asked by : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply :

The Administration has adopted a comprehensive strategy to enhance the language proficiency of both primary and secondary school students, including:-

- (a) developing good reading skills and habits through the Chinese and English Extensive Reading Schemes;
- (b) enriching the language learning environment through various measures such as the provision of Native-speaking English teachers to secondary schools;
- (c) ensuring teachers' language proficiency through the establishment and implementation of language proficiency requirements for teachers;
- (d) dissemination of good practices and language teaching resources through the District Teacher Network and the HKEducationCITY;
- (e) provision of resources which can be flexibly deployed to strengthen language education; and
- (f) developing criterion-referenced evaluation mechanisms to assess students' language proficiency.

The financial provisions for all these measures have been included under

different Subheads of the Estimates of the Education Department.

Apart from the Education Department, the Language Fund and Quality Education Fund have been funding various measures/projects for primary and secondary school students as well.

With regard to the enhancement of language proficiency specifically of secondary school students, in 2001/02, the Education Department will implement the following measures:-

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Providing 527 Native English-speaking Teachers (NETs) in 442 schools | \$276.50M |
| • Providing 103 additional English teachers for schools using Chinese as the medium of instruction | \$24.00M |
| • Launching research and development projects to promote effective language teaching and learning in line with the curriculum reform | \$1.45M |
| • Launching language teacher education programmes related to curriculum reform | \$2.57M |
| • Subsidizing serving teachers of English and Putonghua in secondary schools to attend courses to meet the language proficiency requirement* | \$23.06M |
| • Organizing five language learning camps for 1800 students | \$1.77M |

* The total subsidy for teachers of English and Putonghua in primary and secondary schools is about \$68M.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Education</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2001</u>

Bureau Serial No.

EMB143

Question Serial No.

1261

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the estimated shortfall in secondary school places in Wong Tai Sin and Kwun Tong Districts? Will the Government consider granting additional travelling subsidies to students who involuntarily have to attend schools outside the districts they live because of the shortage of school places? If not, what are the reasons? Is there any specific long-term plan to alleviate the problem of shortage of school places in Kowloon East Region?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply :

According to the current planning parameters, primary school places are planned on a district basis whereas secondary school places are planned on a territory-wide basis. As far as possible, and subject to the availability of suitable sites, new secondary schools are built to meet local demand. Between now and the 2007/08 school year, a total of 37 secondary schools has been planned throughout the territory to meet the forecast demand of secondary school places. In the 2001/02 school year, there will be a shortage of 280 Secondary One places in Wong Tai Sin. Two new secondary schools will come on stream in the district, one in the 2002/03 school year, and the other in the 2005/06 school year. For Kwun Tong, the number of Secondary One places provided by schools in the 2001/02 school year will be adequate to meet the district demand. One new secondary school will come on stream in the district in the 2002/03 school year, with another two in the following school year.

The Government provides travel subsidies to eligible students, and one of the eligibility criteria for secondary school students is that they should live beyond ten minutes' walking distance from their schools. The students may apply through their respective schools to the Student Financial Assistance Agency for subsidies.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung
Post Title	Director of Education
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB144

Question Serial No.

1262

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4005 Other Direct Services and Subvention

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the progress in implementing the Induction Programmes for newly arrived children and young people? How does the Education Department monitor the quality of the Programmes provided by non-governmental organizations?

Asked by : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

Since 1995, non-government organisations (NGOs) have been running Induction Programme for newly arrived children (NAC). Starting from 2000 – 01, the Induction Programme has been extended to include newly arrived non-Chinese speaking children and returnee children. The enrolment situation of the Programme from 1995 to 2001 is as follows –

Financial Enrolment Year	Number of NGOs	Number of Classes Operated	
1995 – 1996	19	263	3 403
1996 – 1997	33	688	9 081
1997 – 1998	42	786	10 756
1998 – 1999	51	1 046	14 495
1999 – 2000	53	774	10 592
2000 – 2001	56	642	9 630
		(estimated)	(estimated)

To ensure the quality of the Induction Programme, participating NGOs need to employ qualified teachers and/or registered social workers as course instructors. Participating NGOs are also required to conduct self-evaluation for their programmes and submit reports to the Education Department (ED) after completion of each class. In addition, ED will conduct inspections on the programmes.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

15 March 2001

No.

Bureau Serial

EMB145

Question Serial No.

1263

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4001 - Primary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : It is estimated by the Education Department that the percentage of graduate teachers in government and aided primary schools will be increased from 26.7% in the 2000/01 school year to 35% in the 2001/02 school year. What progress has been made so far?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye

Reply :

In the 2000/2001 school year, 1 640 graduate teacher posts have been created in government and aided primary schools. These 1 640 posts together with the 4 035 primary graduate teacher posts created previously make up a total of 5 675 graduate teacher posts, amounting to 26.7% of the primary school teaching posts in government and aided primary schools.

The Government will provide another 1 640 primary graduate teacher posts in the 2001/2002 school year, bringing the total number of such posts to 7 315, thus meeting the 35% policy target.

Signature

Name in block letters Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title Director of Education

Date 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB146

Question Serial No.

1264

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4002 Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : As a result of contracting out of clerical and janitor services in government secondary schools, 77 posts have been deleted. How much savings have been achieved by contracting out of such services? How many schools have contracted out such services?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Selina CHOW

Reply :

The contracting out of the clerical/janitor service is a cost-neutral scheme. Under this scheme, Government schools are provided with a lump sum equivalent to the salary savings of the clerical/workman posts deleted from their establishment. All 37 government secondary schools have joined the scheme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB147

Question Serial No.

1470

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40-Education Department Subhead :

Programme : 4005 Other Direct Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide further information on the following questions relating to pre-primary education:-

- (a) What is the estimated increase in the number of kindergarten classes arising from the lowering of kindergarten's admission age to 2 years and 8 months? How many classes will be eligible for subsidy? What additional expenditure will be incurred?
- (b) What is the total expenditure on teachers' salaries for kindergartens joining the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme in 2000? How does the government assess whether the subsidy granted is sufficient?
- (c) Please provide figures on the number of kindergartens withdrawing from the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme, as well as those first joining the Scheme over the past 3 years. What was the increase/decrease in expenditure resulting from kindergartens withdrawing from/joining the Scheme?

Asked by : Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply :

- (a) As the result of the lowering of admission age to kindergartens, those children aged from 2 years and 8 months to 2 years 11 months will all be eligible for schooling by September 2001. While this change should not affect the total number of students attending kindergartens during the school year, it is estimated that some 23 000 children aged between 2 years 8 months and 2 years 11 months as at 31 August will be able to start schooling earlier. In other words, some 1

500 classes would start operation earlier, with about 600 of them covered by the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme (KSS). As payments under the KSS are made in two instalments, based on the number of operating classes at 15 September and 15 February, there would be additional expenditure in the first instalment payments. The additional cost is estimated to be \$12.3M in the 2001-02 financial year.

- (b) The objective of the KSS is to assist kindergartens in meeting the Government's requirement that they employ at least 60% of qualified teachers. For the 1999/2000 school year, the total expenditure on teacher salaries of kindergartens joining the Scheme was \$618M, of which \$439M was in respect of qualified teachers. The total subsidy through the KSS was \$127M. The relevant figures for the 2000/01 school year are not yet available. In considering the adequacy of Government's financial commitment for kindergarten education, it is relevant to bear in mind that, apart from KSS, Government also provides:

- reimbursement of rents and rates for non-profit-making kindergartens
- fee remission for needy families
- teacher training

- (c) The number of kindergartens joining and withdrawing from the Scheme in the past three school years and the respective expenditure/savings are as follows:

School Year	Joining		Withdrawn	
	No. of schools	Subsidy incurred	No. of schools	Subsidy saved
1998/1999	24	\$8,119,800	3	\$211,200
1999/2000	15	\$5,691,150	2	\$364,350
2000/2001	13	\$4,600,000 (estimated)	4	\$1,324,650

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung _____

Post Title _____ Director of Education _____

Date _____ 20 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EMB148

Question Serial No.

1472

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 40 – Education Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 4004 Departmental Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Education

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : With regard to the annual provision of in-service subject training for 600 teachers in the Music and Art & Craft subjects, please provide the number and percentage of the teachers who have received such training up to the 2000-01 school year.

Asked by : Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply :

By the end of the 2000/01 school year, a total of 1 141 (574 in 1999/2000 and 567 in 2000/01) teachers will have received such training. This represents 32% of the 3 556 serving non-subject-trained Music and Art & Craft teachers. There will be a further 600 training places each year for the coming five years.

Signature

Name in block letters

Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung

Post Title

Director of Education

Date

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB149

Question Serial No.

0061

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90 Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In Programme (1), the revised financial provision for 2000-01 is \$99.8m, which is \$4.8m higher than the estimates for that year. Why?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The 2000-01 Revised Estimate for Programme (1) is \$4.8m higher than the Approved Estimate. This includes an increase of \$4.2m in respect of actual salary paid to staff in 2000-01. There is no increase in the establishment as approved in the 2000-01 Printed Estimates.

The remaining \$0.6m increase includes \$0.5m for the enhancement of general office and computer equipment to enhance customer service, and \$0.1m for the office removal of the labour relations service offices under the Department's reprovisioning and integration programme of our local employment service offices, our labour relations service offices and our careers information centres.

Signature : _____

Name in Block Letters : Mrs Pamela TAN
Post Title : Commissioner for Labour
Date : 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 150

Question Serial No.

0062

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : A total of 127 915 consultation meetings were actually held in 2000. Why were there 12 085 meetings less than the estimated figure of 140 000 for that year?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : The decrease in the number of consultation meetings conducted in 2000 reflects a levelling off of demand for consultation on employment-related problems due to the gradual recovery of the economy. It also tallies with the general decrease in the number of wage reduction, retrenchment and insolvency cases in 2000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 151

Question Serial No.

0063

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Tripartite committees will produce practical guides on subjects of mutual concern through tripartite collaboration and organise programmes to promote tripartite collaboration. What are the details of and schedules for these guides and programmes? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

For the first half of 2001-02, three practical guides will be produced by the tripartite committees. These include guides on

- (a) the use of written employment contracts and wage records in the construction industry;
- (b) the importance of distinguishing a "contract of employment" from "contract for service" in the cargo transport industry; and
- (c) skills upgrading opportunities in the printing industry.

Major programmes to promote tripartite collaboration at the trade/ industry level include :

- (a) forming working groups to draw up skills upgrading programmes for

the catering, printing and cargo transport industries;

- (b) promotion of the use of written employment contracts in the construction industry;
- (c) seminar to enhance the awareness of employees' rights and benefits in the warehouse & cargo transport industry; and
- (d) seminar on the future technological development of the printing industry and challenges for printing workers.

The estimated cost for launching the above activities is \$211,000.

For the second half of 2001-02, a study will be conducted on the employment characteristics of the property management industry. Tripartite committees and working groups on skills upgrading in the respective industries will further discuss and decide on the specific activity or programme they wish to launch.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 152

Question Serial No.

0064

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

- (a) In the coming year, the Labour Department will produce a video on workplace consultation for distribution to employers and for use as educational material in seminars and training courses. How many copies of the video will be produced? What is the expenditure involved?
- (b) In the coming year, the Labour Department will produce a new practical guide on workplace co-operation for use by human resource practitioners. What are the details of this project? When will the project be completed? How many copies of the guide will be printed? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

- (a) The video to be produced by the Labour Department will highlight the successful experience of companies in workplace co-operation. The purpose is to strengthen the promotion of workplace consultation and co-operation at the enterprise level. The video will be produced in video compact disc (VCD) format and 5 000 copies will be made initially for distribution to employers. The video will also be uploaded to the Labour Department's Homepage for wider public access. The cost of producing the video and making 5 000 copies of VCDs is about \$420,000.

- (b) To promote workplace co-operation in individual enterprises, the Labour Department will produce a new practical guide on workplace co-operation for use by human resource practitioners. The guide, which sets out practical steps in achieving workplace co-operation, will complement the video mentioned in (a) above in strengthening the promotion of voluntary co-operation between employers and employees at the enterprise level.

20 000 copies of the guide, estimated to cost around \$60,000, will be printed and distributed in the first half of 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB153

Question Serial No.

0076

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question :
- a) The Labour Department will organise publicity activities to explain to employers and employees the distinction between employer/employee relationship and contractor/sub-contractor relationship in the next year. What are the details of the activities and the expenditure involved?
 - (b) The Labour Department will develop a new computer programme to facilitate trade unions in managing the membership and subscription records of trade union members in the next year. What are the details of this plan? What will be the expenditure to be incurred?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

- (a) It is important for the Labour Department to explain to employers and employees the distinction between employer/employee relationship and contractor/sub-contractor relationship because employees come under the protection of labour laws while sub-contractors do not. The purpose of the publicity activities is to enhance the awareness of both the employers and employees on the rights and responsibilities associated with these two relationships. The details of the publicity activities are as follows :

- (i) Publishing 20 000 copies of special guides on distinguishing employer/employee relationship and contractor/subcontractor relationship for wide distribution to employers and employees.
- (ii) Enhancing public awareness of the distinction through media programmes including APIs, media interviews, newspaper quiz and press releases.
- (iii) Uploading such information to the Labour Department's Homepage and departmental newsletters reaching some 100 000 establishments.
- (iv) Disseminating such information to the public through the special fax message functions of the Department's Telephone Enquiry Services.
- (v) Promoting understanding of the difference between an employee and a sub-contractor through personnel manager clubs and industry-based tripartite committees.

The estimated cost for items (i) and (ii) above is \$110,000. It is not possible to provide a separate breakdown of the financial provision for the remaining items as they form part of the Department's overall promotional activities.

- (b) The new computer programme aims to assist trade unions in managing the membership and subscription records of their members. It will be a software package to be run independently under a Windows-based operation system. Its main features include:
 - (i) maintenance of membership records (e.g. updating members' records and issuing membership cards);
 - (ii) keeping of subscription records (e.g. updating payment details, generating lists of members in arrears of subscriptions, and issuing reminders on non-payment of subscriptions as well as payment receipts); and
 - (iii) other ancillary functions (e.g. printing mailing labels of members, completing annual returns on membership as required under the Trade Unions Ordinance, and analyzing the profile of members).

We have earmarked \$40,000 to develop the computer programme. It will be distributed to all registered trade unions in the fourth quarter of 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour _____

Date _____ 14 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 154

Question Serial No.

0119

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Regarding the employment services,

- (a) the actual number of placements of able-bodied job-seekers in 2000 is 59 164, which represent an increase of 12 053 when compared with the figure in 1999. Why is it estimated that the number in 2001 will only be 60 000, that is, an increase of 800-odd only over last year?
- (b) the actual number of placements of disabled job-seekers in 2000 is 2 007, which represent an increase of over 30% when compared with the figure in 1999. Why is it estimated that the number in 2001 will only be 2 200, that is, less than 10% increase over last year?
- (c) the number of young people participating in careers guidance activities in 2000 is 749 318, which represent an increase of 251 744 when compared with the number in 1999. Why is it estimated that the number in 2001 will only be 750 000, that is, an increase of 682 only over last year?
- (d) the Labour Department plans to develop and implement a

"Self Help Integrated Placement Service (SHIPS)" programme to improve the job-searching skills of job-seekers with a disability. What are the details of the programme? What expenditure will be involved?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

- Reply :
- (a) We anticipate a small increase in the number of placements of able-bodied job-seekers by the Employment Service of the Labour Department because the general economy is gradually improving and we expect that in such climate, the number of job seekers should level off. Against a background of about the same number of job seekers as in 2000, the number of placements is likely to remain static.
 - (b) The Labour Department achieved a record 2 007 placements for job seekers with a disability, which was 33% higher than that of 1999. This can be attributed largely to the full computerisation of its Selective Placement Service at the beginning of the year. For the first time, the service was able to tap the large pool of vacancies kept in the Department's Employment Service and conduct computerised job matching. Innovative programmes such as the Self-Help Integrated Placement Service also helped. But once we have settled into the new system, and with a greatly expanded baseline, we expect the annual growth rate will slow down.
 - (c) The number of young people participating in careers guidance activities has increased by about 50% against the number in the previous year because we have rendered our careers information more easily accessible by making use of information technologies to improve our dedicated website and have actively involved careers teachers and non-government organizations (NGOs) in the delivery of careers guidance service. We expect to maintain about the same high number of participants in our careers guidance activities in 2001-02 as once having settled into the new system, the annual growth rate should slow down.
 - (d) The "Self Help Integrated Placement Service" (SHIPS) supplements the traditional personal placement service of the Selective Placement Division (SPD) of the department.

It aims at enhancing the job-searching skills of the disabled job-seekers and encouraging them to be more proactive and independent in the search for jobs. Upon enrollment in the programme, the disabled job-seekers will be provided with group counselling sessions to improve their inter-personal skills and interviewing techniques. Computer facilities (including Internet browsing), telephones, fax machines, up-to-date careers information and reference materials are made available to them in the SPD offices. With the assistance and support of the placement officers, they are encouraged to search and apply for suitable jobs on their own initiative. About 600 disabled job-seekers will benefit from the programme in 2001. No additional recurrent cost is required and the Labour Department will absorb the initial outlay in such items as installation of fax machines and computers for launching the programme. The manpower required will be provided through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 155

Question Serial No.

0141

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Administration is committed to strengthening voluntary co-operation between employers, employees and the government on employment matters at the trade/industry level through tripartite collaboration and this plan includes organising programmes like seminars and workshops. What is the expenditure involved in this plan? Which trades/industries will be included in this plan? Please give a detailed account.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Workplace Consultation Promotion Unit (WCPU) of the Labour Department promotes direct and voluntary negotiation between employers and employees. One of the means to achieve this end is through promotion of collaboration in tripartite committees in individual industries. The WCPU has, in 2001-02, been provided with a financial provision of \$10.382m to promote and establish tripartite committees as well as to promote workplace co-operation at the enterprise level. It is not possible to single out the promotion activity in respect of tripartite committees to provide a separate financial breakdown.

At present, we have formed eight tripartite committees for the catering; construction; theatre; warehouse & cargo transport; property management; printing; hotel & tourism and cement & concrete industries. These committees, comprising representatives of workers' unions, employers and their organisations and officers of the Labour Department, provide useful forums for employers and employees to discuss and agree on industry-specific issues of mutual concern.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 156

Question Serial No.

0142

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Last year, the Labour Department successfully resolved 61.8% of labour disputes and claims through conciliation but nearly 40% of them remained unresolved. What is the reason for this? Why is the estimated success rate also set at 61.8% for the coming year? Is there any increase or decrease in the input of resources?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2000, 61.8% of the labour disputes and wage claims were resolved through conciliation. The remaining 38.2% of cases could not be resolved because, in spite of our conciliation efforts, the parties concerned either were in dispute over the facts of the case or would not make compromise to reach a mutually acceptable settlement. The claimants in these cases were referred, depending on the claim amount, to the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board or the Labour Tribunal for adjudication.

The estimated success rate of conciliation is based on past trend and operational experience. The average settlement rate in the past 3 years was 61%. We believe that the success rate of conciliation in 2001 could be maintained at the same level as 2000 (61.8%).

There is no change in the financial provision for 2001-02 in respect of the conciliation of labour disputes and claims. The financial provision should be able to meet the needs of the conciliation service. Where necessary, internal deployment of resources will be made to cater for special circumstances.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 157

Question Serial No.

0143

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : As an indicator in the Estimates, there will be 750 000 young people participating in careers guidance activities. Are the participants in the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme included in this figure? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The number of trainees of the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme is not included in the estimated number of young people participating in career guidance activities. The estimated amount of expenditure for the provision of career guidance activities is \$9,778,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 158

Question Serial No.

0144

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : As regards the pilot scheme for the long-term unemployed aged 40 or above, will the Administration focus its resources for the training of the unemployed aged 40 to 49? What are the expenditures for the scheme?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged launched by the Labour Department aims to help middle-aged long-term unemployed workers to find open employment. Unemployed job-seekers above 40 years of age who have registered with the Department for three months or more and are actively looking for a job, are eligible for the programme. Resources will be spent on all those who are eligible for the service and will focus on those who have particular difficulties in finding a job.

The pilot programme aims at placing 2 000 clients in open employment in a year on a budget of \$9.8m, 75% (\$7.35m) of which has been earmarked for the year 2001-02.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 159

Question Serial No.

0145

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : If the workplace poses imminent risk to lives and limbs, the Labour Department will issue suspension notices. Does this involve imposition of fines to serve as a deterrent? If yes, what are the details? How will the Department spend the money received from the fines?

Asked by : The Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Commissioner for Labour is empowered under Section 10 of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509) to issue a suspension notice (SN) to the employer of a workplace to suspend immediately any hazardous work or process or the use of any dangerous equipment which may create an imminent risk of serious bodily injury to workers. Apart from issuing such notice, prosecution would also be taken if there is a breach of the safety legislation. The maximum penalty is a fine of \$500,000 and an imprisonment for 12 months.

An employer who contravenes a suspension notice issued to him will be prosecuted and is liable on conviction to –

- a) a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for 12 months; and
- b) a further fine of \$50,000 for each day or part of a day during which the offender knowingly and intentionally continues the contravention.

The amount of fine is a matter for the court to decide and all fines will become part of the General Revenue of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 160

Question Serial No.

0146

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Are there any funds earmarked for eliminating health damage related to the use of display screen equipment at work?

Asked by : The Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Prolonged use of display screen equipment (DSE) may lead to musculoskeletal problems such as shoulder, neck and upper limb pains, as well as eyestrain.

Workers suffering from disorders related to the use of DSE are welcome to seek medical consultation at the two occupational health clinics operated by the Labour Department. Treatment and individual health counselling in the prevention of health problems arising from the use of DSE are provided. In addition, health talks, workplace inspections and assessments are regularly conducted. These are the on-going services provided by the Department and there is, therefore, no need to provide separate funding for this purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title

Commissioner for Labour

Date

13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 161

Question Serial No.

0152

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What are the estimated expenditures for the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and the Pilot Project for the Long-term Unemployed respectively in 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee

Reply :

The Government has earmarked \$110m to implement the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and \$7.35m to implement the Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged in 2001-02.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 162

Question Serial No.

0247

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The estimated expenditure for 2001-02 is \$39.8 million higher than that for 2000-01. What will be the expenditures for implementing the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and the Pilot Project for the Long-term Unemployed respectively? What will be the increase in the expenditure for this year' Youth Pre-employment Training Programme over last year?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The estimate for the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme is \$110m and the estimate for the Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged is \$7.35m. in 2001-02.

This year's estimate for the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme represents an increase of \$41.45m over the previous year's estimate of \$68.55m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 163

Question Serial No.

0248

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In 2000, the actual number of employment agency licences issued was 1 335, which is 17% higher than the estimated number of 1 139 for that year. What is the reason? Why is it estimated that the number of employment agency licences to be issued in 2001 will be 1 100, which is lower than that in 2000 and 1999?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The number of employment agency licences issued varies according to the prevailing conditions of the economy and the demand for paid services. The number of employment agency licences shot up to a record high of 1 335 at the end of 2000, representing an increase of 17% over the estimated number for that year. We consider such an upsurge exceptional. We have therefore taken the more conservative estimate of 1 100 which represents the norm for recent years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 164

Question Serial No.

0249

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the Interactive
Employment Service website in 2001 – 02?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The operating cost of maintaining the Interactive Employment Service (iES)
web site in 2001-02 is about \$550,000. In addition, the Labour Department will
use \$500,000 to promote the new features of the iES.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB165

Question Serial No.

0250

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90 Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Why is it that the actual number of young people participating in careers guidance activities in 2000 was 50% more than the estimated number of 500 000 for that year?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

We were able to attract about 50% more young people to participate in careers guidance activities in 2000 than the estimated number for that year by engaging the following strategies:

1. Making use of information technologies to develop a dedicated website to provide up-to-date careers information and render such information easily accessible.
2. Involving careers teachers in schools to provide careers information to students by equipping them with appropriate reference material, including a new VCD produced for this purpose.
3. Staging more careers exhibitions at schools to replace some small-group careers talks and discussions.
4. Developing stronger partnership with non-government organizations in the delivery of careers guidance service.

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 166

Question Serial No.

0274

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Controlling Officer stated in her report under Programme 1 : Labour Relations that the working days lost from labour disputes known increased from 299 in 1999 to 934 in 2000. The number of strike cases increased from three in 1999 to five in 2000. The increase in the number of working days lost in the year of 2000 was due to a loss of 626 working days in one single case.

Of the financial provision, how much will be spent on (a) taking preventive measures to prevent the outbreak of labour disputes and on (b) taking remedial action such as conciliation?

Asked by : Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply :

Of the financial provision for 2001-02, \$17.39m will be spent in activities for the promotion of public understanding of employment legislation, effective labour-management communication and good people management practices. These activities can help prevent the outbreak of labour disputes. Another \$43.8m will be spent in providing consultation and conciliation services to help resolve labour disputes and employment claims.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 167

Question Serial No.

0280

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the establishment of the employment services for the current year? What are the five posts planned to be deleted?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The establishment of the Employment Services Programme is 392 in the 2000-01 fiscal year. The five posts to be deleted in the next fiscal year are as follows:

2 Assistant Clerical Officers,
1 Clerical Assistant,
1 Office Assistant, and
1 Typist.

The deletion of these posts is made possible by the computerization and streamlining of work processes in various activities in the Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 168

Question Serial No.

0281

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What was the expenditure for the operation of Interactive Employment Service (iES) website in 2000? How many visits to the website were recorded? What is the estimated expenditure for 2001? This year, how much provision is earmarked for the further promotion of the website?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Labour Department has spent about \$308,000 to maintain the Interactive Employment Service (iES) web site in 2000-01. This money was used for the rental of communication lines and for services rendered in hardware and software maintenance and systems management support and enhancement. It does not cover staff cost for maintaining the iES, which is not quantifiable because the staff were involved on an ad hoc basis and were redeployed from within the Labour Department and the Information Technology Services Department. In addition, the Labour Department spent a non-recurrent sum of \$3,644,000 (from allocation by the Director of Information Technology Services) to further enhance the capacity and functionality of the website. The

enhancement work was completed in January 2001. We used another \$148,000 to promote the iES and its new features.

From 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000, the iES recorded an average of 121 000 hits per day.

In the year 2001-02, \$550,000 has been budgeted for operating the iES. The increase is due to the use of higher bandwidth lease lines to cope with the increased usage and the rise in hardware maintenance cost due to the additional equipment procured in 2000-01.

The Labour Department will use \$500,000 to promote the new features of the iES in 2001-02.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 169

Question Serial No.

0282

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90 Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : (a) Regarding the pilot scheme for the long-term unemployed aged 40 or above, how many unemployed people will benefit from the services provided under the scheme this year? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

(b) How many places will be provided under the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme this year? What is the estimated expenditure for the scheme?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

a) The Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged aims at placing 2 000 clients into employment. This Programme has a budget of \$9.8m, 75% (\$7.35m) of which has been earmarked for the year 2001-02.

b) The Youth Pre-employment Training Programme is expected to benefit over 10 000 young people in 2001-02. Expenditure for the Programme in 2001-02 is estimated amounts to be \$110m.

Signature : _____
Name in Block Letters : _____ Mrs Pamela TAN _____
Post Title : _____ Commissioner for Labour _____
Date : _____ 17 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 170

Question Serial No.

0313

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Administration has set targets for the issue of employment agency licences and the number of inspections to employment agencies. Do they include the employment agencies providing employment services on the internet? If not, why?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : Yes, the targets on the number of employment agency licences issued and the number of inspections cover employment agencies rendering employment and placement services through the Internet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB171

Question Serial No.

0314

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90 Subhead(No. & title) : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : As the labour market has not fully recovered, why does the Administration anticipate that the placements for disabled job-seekers will be increased by 10% this year? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

We estimate that the number of disabled job-seekers placed in 2001 will be about 2 200, which represents a 10% increase over that in 2000. The reasons are as follows:

1. Our new computer system greatly enhances the efficiency of the placement service to the disabled, and provides instant and easy access to the large pool of vacancies captured by the 11 Job Centres of the department.
2. We will develop and implement a "Self Help Integrated Placement Service (SHIPS)" which will enhance the job-searching skills of the disabled job-seekers, and help them to be more proactive and independent in the search for jobs.
3. We shall continue the "Trial Placement Scheme for People with a Disability" to encourage employers to recognise the working abilities of the disabled through a 1-month trial placement. This will improve the acceptance of job-seekers with a disability by employers.
4. We shall continue our publicity efforts and have scheduled an array of public education and promotional programmes to promote the employment

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 172

Question Serial No.

0315

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In 2000, the Administration issued 676 warnings to the employers, which represent a 46% increase as compared with that in 1999. How many of these cases involved employers who did not grant statutory holidays to their employees?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : Of the 676 warnings issued in 2000, six involved technical offences relating to statutory holidays. We do not normally issue warnings for offences involving failure to grant statutory holidays as prosecutions will be taken out where there is sufficient evidence.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 173

Question Serial No.

0423

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question : (a) Please list out separately the increase in expenditure for implementing the youth pre-employment training programme and the pilot project for the long-term unemployed.
(b) What are the savings achieved by deletion of the 5 posts?

Asked by : Hon LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- a) The estimate is \$110m for the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and \$7.35m for the Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged in 2001-02.
b) The savings achieved through the deletion of the 5 posts will be \$744,000 per annum.

Signature : _____
Name in Block Letters : Mrs Pamela TAN
Post Title : Commissioner for Labour
Date : 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 174

Question Serial No.

0425

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please give an account of the 5 posts to be deleted under the Enhanced Productivity Programme and the savings achieved.

Asked by : Hon LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The five posts to be deleted in 2001-02 are as follows :

- 1 Occupational Safety Officer II
- 3 Assistant Clerical Officers, and
- 1 Clerical Assistant.

The deletion of these posts will bring about savings of \$978,000 per annum. It must be stressed that the quality of services provided to the public under this Programme will not in any way be affected as the deletion is made possible by streamlining of work processes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 175

Question Serial No.

0468

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What are the estimated expenditures for the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and the programme for the long-term unemployed in 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung

Reply : The Government has earmarked \$110m for the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme in 2001-02. The budget for the Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged is \$9.8m, 75% (\$7.35m) of which has been earmarked for the year 2001-02.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 176

Question Serial No.

0585

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding the expenditure under Programme (3), please give an explanation on the following two points :

- (a) The actual expenditure of Programme (3) in 1999-2000 was \$317.9 m, which showed a decrease of \$2.7 m when compared with the revised estimate in 1999-2000. Why was there such a difference? What kind of services or work originally planned was deleted?
- (b) The revised estimate in 2000-01 was \$333.4 m, which was \$20 m higher than the estimate in 2000-01. Why?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

- (a) The 1999-2000 Actual Expenditure for Programme (3) is \$2.7 m lower than the Revised Estimate because there was a decrease in the general departmental expenses in 1999-2000. This is caused by two factors. First, the price level of goods and services was generally lower. Secondly, payment for the procurement of certain equipment could not be effected

because of delay in delivery. It must be stressed that the slightly decreased expenditure has not affected the quality of service provided to the public under this Programme.

- (b) The 2000-01 Revised Estimate for Programme (3) is \$20 m higher than the Approved Estimate because there is an increase of \$17.1 m in terms of the actual salary paid to staff in 2000-01. There is no increase in the establishment as approved in the 2000-01 Printed Estimates. As for the remaining \$2.9 m, it is used for enhancement of general office and computer equipment to improve customer service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB177

Question Serial No.

0586

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding the number of various inspections and investigation under Programme (3), please give an explanation of the following two items.

- (a) The number of inspections under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance in 2000 was 131 455, representing an increase of 16 560 when compared with the figure in 1999. Why is it estimated that the number of such inspections in 2001 will be 125 000 only, that is, a decrease over last year?
- (b) The number of investigation of accidents at workplaces in 2000 was 13 196, representing an increase of 1 802 when compared with the figure in 1999. Why is it estimated that the number of such investigation in 2001 will be 11 850 only, that is, a decrease over last year?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

There has not been any decrease in the planned inspections under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance in 2001 when compared with the figure for 2000. The planned figures for both years are 125 000 inspections. The number of inspections actually conducted in 2000 was higher than the planned figure because we had carried out additional blitz operations in response to an upward trend of accidents in some trades. While the target for 2001 is set at 125 000, we will continue to conduct similar blitz operations in 2001 if the circumstances so require.

As regards accident investigations, there has not been any decrease in the planned figure in 2001 when compared with that for 2000. The planned figures for both years are 11 850. In 2000, we performed additional accident investigations in the catering industry and property maintenance work industry because of the upward trend of accidents in the two industries. Hence, there was an increase of 1 346 investigations when compared with the planned figure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB178

Question Serial No.

0587

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In 2000, the number of promotional visits to workplace under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance was 6 223, showing an increase of 946 over that of 1999. Why is it estimated that the number of promotional visits in 2001 will be 4 950 only, which is lower than that of last year and the year before last year? Will the Labour Department consider revising the target?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The numbers of promotional visits made in 1999 and 2000 were 5 277 and 6 223 respectively whereas the planned figures for these two years were 4 300 and 4 950 respectively. In the previous two years, we made additional promotional visits to publicise the provisions of several pieces of new safety legislation, including the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Confined Spaces) Regulation, the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Ordinance requiring mandatory basic safety training for construction and container handling workers and the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Management) Regulation. Given the past promotional effort and the coming into effect of two of the regulations, we consider that the planned figure of promotional visits for 2001, i.e. 4 950 is reasonable but, we are ready to increase the number of visits in response to requests from duty-holders, if

necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB179

Question Serial No.

0627

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Will the pilot scheme on employment counselling services for the unemployed aged 40 or above be so similar to the work of the Employees Retraining Board that it might be regarded as a duplication of resource input?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-Aged (the Programme) is very different from the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) programmes.

The Programme was launched in February 2001 to help unemployed job-seekers above 40 years of age who have registered with the Labour Department for three months or above and are actively looking for job. It will help participants enhance their employability through a range of supporting pre-employment workshops and counselling services to meet their individual needs. Another core element of the Programme involves employment with induction training to be provided by the respective employers. Induction training covers basic components such as familiarization of workplace, working procedures and job-specific skills. The

Bureau Serial No.

EMB180

Question Serial No.

0628

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Is the Self-help Integrated Placement Service programme proposed for job-seekers with a disability in the Estimates the same as the pilot scheme for on-the-job training for disabled people mentioned in the Budget? If they are separate programmes, what are their respective features? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The Self Help Integrated Placement Service (SHIPS) Programme for job-seekers with a disability mentioned under Head 90 (Labour Department) of the Estimates 2001-02 is a different programme from the Pilot On-the-job Training Programme for the Disabled highlighted in the 2001-02 Budget.

The SHIPS programme supplements the traditional personal placement service of the Selective Placement Division (SPD) of the Labour Department. It aims at enhancing the job-searching skills of the disabled job-seekers and encouraging them to be more proactive and independent in the search for jobs. First of all, group counselling sessions would be provided to the disabled job-seekers to improve their inter-personal skills and interviewing techniques. Computer facilities (including internet browsing), telephones and fax machines, and access to the update careers information are made available to them in the SPD offices. With the assistance and support of the placement officers, they are then encouraged to search and apply for suitable jobs on their own initiative.

Bureau Serial No.

EMB181

Question Serial No.

0688

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Labour Department will introduce changes to the Employees Compensation Assistance Scheme in the coming year. What are the details of and schedule for the plan? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

After thorough consultation with the Labour Advisory Board, the Administration proposes to introduce the following changes to the Employees Compensation Assistance Scheme with a view to restoring its financial viability in the long run :

- (a) To provide an ex gratia payment in lieu of common law damages to an injured employee who has been awarded common law damages by the court but is unable to receive his entitlement from his employer or insurer;
- (b) To strengthen the role of the Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Board in managing claims, including the power to join in as a party to the legal proceedings to protect the interests of the Fund;

- (c) To impose a surcharge on employers who have failed to take out employees' compensation insurance; and
- (d) To raise the current rate of levy, which is collected on employees' compensation insurance premium, by 1%.

We will consult the Legislative Council Panel on Manpower on details of the proposal in April. Our aim is to introduce the necessary legislative amendments in the current session of the Legislative Council.

The proposed reform of the Scheme would not have financial nor staffing implications for the Government.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB182

Question Serial No.

0689

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Labour Department will consider legislative amendments to the Employees' Compensation Ordinance with a view to streamlining its operation in the coming year. What are the details of and schedule for the plan? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The review to streamline the processing of employees' compensation claims under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance will cover areas such as settlement procedures for minor injuries, access to information related to the work accident etc. It is in progress and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2001.

The Labour Department is conducting the review with existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB183

Question Serial No.

0690

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The actual expenditure in 1999-2000 under programme (4) was \$197m, representing a decrease of \$1.5m compared with the revised estimate for that year. What were the reasons for the discrepancy? What were the original plans deleted?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The 1999-2000 Actual Expenditure for Programme (4) is \$1.5 m lower than the Revised Estimate because there was a decrease in the general departmental expenses in 1999-2000. This is caused by two factors. First, the price level of goods and services was generally lower. Secondly, payment for the procurement of certain equipment could not be effected because of a delay in delivery. It must be stressed that the slightly decreased expenditure has not affected the quality of service provided to the public under this Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB184

Question Serial No.

0691

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The revised estimated in 2000-01 under Programme (4) was \$199.5m, which showed an increase of \$3.5m when compared with the approved estimate for that year. Why?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The 2000-01 Revised Estimate for Programme (4) is \$3.5m higher than the Approved Estimate. This includes an increase of \$1.4m in respect of actual salary paid to staff in 2000-01. There is no increase in the establishment as approved in the 2000-01 Printed Estimates.

The remaining \$2.1m increase is for the enhancement of general office and computer equipment to improve customer service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB185

Question Serial No.

0796

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : As one of the duties of the Labour Department is to enforce the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (OSHO), why are the numbers of inspections under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance (FIUO) and the OSHO (including inspections per field inspector), promotional visits, investigation of accidents at workplaces, and talks, lectures, seminars organised under the plan for 2001 less than that in 2000?

Asked by : Hon Henry WU King-cheong

Reply :

There has not been any decrease in the planned inspections under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance in 2001 when compared with the figure for 2000. The targets for both years are 125 000 planned inspections. The number of inspections actually conducted in 2000 was higher than the planned target because we had carried out additional blitz operations in response to an upward trend of accidents in some trades. While the target for 2001 is set at 125 000, we will continue to conduct similar blitz operations in 2001 if the circumstances so require.

The numbers of promotional visits made in 1999 and 2000 were 5 277 and 6 223 respectively whereas the planned figures for these two years were 4 300 and 4 950 respectively. In the previous two years, we made additional promotional visits to publicise the provisions of several pieces of new safety legislation, including the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Confined Spaces) Regulation, the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Ordinance requiring mandatory basic safety training for construction and container handling workers and the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Management) Regulation. Given the past promotional effort and the coming into effect of two of the regulations, we consider that the planned figure of promotional visits for 2001, i.e. 4 950 is reasonable, but we are ready to increase the number of visits in response to requests from duty-holders, if necessary.

As regards accident investigations, there has not been any decrease in the target in 2001 when compared with that for 2000. The planned figures for both years are 11 850. In 2000, we performed additional accident investigations in the catering industry and property maintenance work industry because of the upward trend of accidents in the two industries.. Hence, there was an increase of 1 346 investigations when compared with the planned figure.

The number of talks, lectures, seminars planned for 2001 has actually been improved from 2 000 in year 2000 to 2 300 in year 2001. In 2000, we organised more small-scale health talks leading to an increase in this activity. To enhance cost-effectiveness, we will shift our focus to organizing more large-scale health talks in 2001. Thus in terms of number, the planned figure for 2001 may not be as high as the actual figure of 2000. However, we must stress that if demand warrants, we will organize more talks, lectures and seminars through internal re-deployment of resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB186

Question Serial No.

0797

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Although the unemployment rate in Hong Kong has been gradually declining, the number of unemployed people is still high. Why is it that the financial provision for employment services in 2001-02 will only be an increase of 16.9% (\$39.8 m) over last year, that is, a significant decrease when compared with the increase of 59.3% (\$87.6 m) in 2000-01?

Asked by : Hon Henry WU King-cheong

Reply :

To tackle the unemployment problem, the Administration increased the financial provisions for the employment services in 2000-01 from \$147.7 m to \$235.3m (i.e. 59.3%). As this problem is still high on the agenda of the Administration, a budgeted provision of \$275.1 m has been made for 2001-02, an increase of 16.9%. This increase in percentage terms is less than that for the preceding year because it is based on a baseline which has already been raised significantly. The amount increased in absolute terms is significant and is considered appropriate for maintaining an acceptable employment service.

Signature : _____
Name in Block Letters : _____ Mrs Pamela TAN _____
Post Title : _____ Commissioner for Labour _____
Date : _____ 17 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EMB187

Question Serial No.

0798

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question

The major new plans that the Labour Department will launch in 2001-02 include introducing a pilot scheme for the long-term unemployed aged 40 or above and implementing a new Self-help Integrated Placement Service (SHIPS) programme for job-seekers with a disability. What are the estimated expenditures for and the details of the above two plans respectively? Has the Department set performance indicators to assess the effectiveness of these services?

Asked by : Hon Henry WU King-cheong

Reply :

The budget for the Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged is \$9.8 m, 75% (\$7.35 m) of which has been earmarked for the year 2001-02.

The Programme was launched in February 2001 to help unemployed job-seekers above 40 years of age who have registered with the Department for three months or above and are actively looking for job. The core programme involves employment with induction training to be provided by the respective employers. In order to enhance the employability of the participants, a range of supporting pre-employment training and counselling services will also be

offered to meet their individual needs.

Employers who are willing to engage participants of the Programme in a full-time permanent job will provide them with induction training during the first month of employment. Induction training covers basic components such as familiarization of workplace, working procedures and job-specific skills. The employers will have to appoint an experienced staff as the mentor for the employee concerned. A one-off training subsidy of \$2,800 will be given to the employers to offset the costs of induction training given to the new recruit. The target for the Programme is to place 2 000 eligible job-seekers into open employment in a year.

The Self Help Integrated Placement Service (SHIPS) Programme is a new service of the Labour Department in 2001-02 for job-seekers with a disability. The new programme supplements the traditional placement service for the disabled of the Selective Placement Division (SPD) of the Labour Department. It aims at enhancing the job-searching skills of the disabled job-seekers and encouraging them to be more proactive and independent in the search for jobs. First of all, group counselling sessions would be provided to the disabled job-seekers to improve their inter-personal skills and interviewing techniques. Computer facilities (including internet browsing), telephones and fax machines, and access to the update careers information are made available to them in the SPD offices. With the assistance and support of the placement officers, they are then encouraged to search and apply for suitable jobs on their own initiative. The programme will benefit 600 disabled job-seekers in 2001 and aims at achieving a placement rate of 70%. No additional recurrent cost is required and the Labour Department will absorb the initial outlay in such items as installation of fax machines and computers for launching the programme. The manpower required will be provided through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature : _____
Name in Block Letters : _____ Mrs Pamela TAN
Post Title : _____ Commissioner for Labour
Date : _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB188

Question Serial No.

0863

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In the past 3 years, what was the number of claims for which conciliation meetings could not be arranged within 4 weeks? What percentage of the total number of claims did it account for?

What was the average waiting time for arranging conciliation meetings for the claims handled by the various branch offices in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

- (a) The number of claims with waiting time exceeding 4 weeks for conciliation meetings and the percentage over the total number of claims received in the past three years are given below :

Year	Total no. of claims received	No. of claims with waiting time for conciliation meetings exceeding 4 weeks	% over total no. of claims received
1998	33 786	7 121	21%
1999	31 462	7 311	23%
2000	29 956	2 435	8%

- (b) The average waiting time (in terms of weeks) for arranging conciliation meetings in each branch office of the Labour Relations Division in the past three years is given below :

Office	1998	1999	2000
Hong Kong East	4.3	4.8	4.4
Hong Kong West	4.4	4.9	4.5
Kowloon East	4.1	3.9	3.6
Kowloon West	3.7	3.7	4.0
Kowloon South	4.0	4.7	4.8
Kwun Tong	4.5	4.4	3.8
Kwai Chung	4.2	4.4	4.1
Tsuen Wan	3.9	3.5	3.7
Tuen Mun	3.9	3.6	4.0
Sha Tin	4.1	4.1	3.9
Tai Po	4.5	4.7	3.7

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB189

Question Serial No.

0864

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What are the reasons for the failure of the waiting time for arranging conciliation meetings in 2001 (Plan) (within 5 weeks) to meet the target (within 4 weeks)? Are there any measures (e.g. providing additional staff) to shorten the waiting time?

Asked by : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

- (a) The Labour Department managed to arrange conciliation meetings within four weeks for 92% of the claims received in 2000. The target of four weeks could not be met only in 8% of the claims received. The reasons were :
- There was a drastic increase in the number of claims received after the economic downturn in 1997 : 54% increase in 1998, 43.4% increase in 1999 and 36.5% increase in 2000 as compared to 1997.
 - The number of claims received could fluctuate from time to time. In 2000, the heaviest case intake was recorded in the last quarter of the year. The influx of claims made it difficult for the target to be met in a small percentage of the cases in the last few months of the year.

As the number of claims in 2001 is expected to remain at a high level comparable to that of 2000, it is considered realistic to continue to revise our planned waiting time for arranging conciliation meetings to “within five weeks” in 2001. Notwithstanding the revised target, our aim remains to arrange conciliation meetings within the shortest possible time. In fact, the achievement rate for meeting the target time for arranging conciliation meetings in 2000 was the highest in the last three years.

(b) We will take the following measures to help shorten the waiting time for conciliation meetings :

- introducing work simplification measures to streamline operation; and
- arranging internal staff redeployment to cope with the upsurge in workload of individual branch offices on a need basis.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB190

Question Serial No.

0865

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Does the Administration have any indicator to measure to what extent employers and employees are satisfied with the labour relations so that the effectiveness of each job under this Programme can be more accurately assessed?

Asked by : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

We regularly monitor the effectiveness of our work under the Labour Relations Programme. Through our contacts with employers, employees and their organisations, we can get their feedback and views on our services.

In addition, we have also taken other measures such as :

- (a) collection of views from users of our services via the Department's Customer Liaison Group;
- (b) conducting customer opinion survey on the users' level of satisfaction with our services offered or with the activities we organized; and
- (c) designating Customer Service Manager and Office Manager to receive

complaints, comments and views from the public on our services.

On the whole, we are of the view that the state of labour relations in Hong Kong is harmonious. One indicator is the small number of working days lost due to strikes over the years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB191

Question Serial No.

0866

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In the estimate for 2001-02, what financial provision is earmarked for strengthening voluntary co-operation between employers, employees and the government on employment matters at the trade/ industry level? If the term "voluntary co-operation" used by the Administration already covers the practice of "regulation of terms and conditions of employment by means of collective agreements" as stipulated in Article 4 of the International Labour Convention No. 98, what are the details of the financial provision that the Administration has set aside for the fulfillment of its duties under the said Convention?

Asked by : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

- (a) The Workplace Consultation Promotion Unit (WCPU) of the Labour Department promotes direct and voluntary negotiation between employers and employees through promotion of collaboration both at the trade / industry level or at the enterprise level. The WCPU has, in 2001-02, been provided with a financial provision of \$10.382m to carry out its work.

- (b) We have applied International Labour Convention No. 98 in full. To fulfill the obligations imposed by the Convention, the Labour Department has taken measures to promote and encourage voluntary and direct negotiation between employers and employees or their respective organisations. It promotes the establishment of effective channels for communication and voluntary negotiation at the enterprise level and tripartite dialogue at the industry level.

At the enterprise level, the Labour Department offers advice on the setting up of machinery for negotiation where such is not in place. If voluntary negotiation between employers and employees fails, Labour Department will offer the parties conciliation service. Upon successful conciliation, the parties are encouraged to conclude an agreement in writing on the terms of settlement.

At the industry level, we have formed eight tripartite committees for the catering, construction, theatre, warehouse & cargo transport, property management, printing, hotel & tourism and cement & concrete industries. These committees provide useful forums for employers and employees to discuss and agree on industry-specific issues of mutual concern.

- (c) In 2001-02, the financial provision for the promotion of direct and voluntary negotiation between employers and employees and the provision of conciliation services will be \$54.18m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB192

Question Serial No.

0867

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : As the Administration plans to organize publicity activities to explain to employers and employees on how to distinguish employer/employee relationship from contractor/sub-contractor relationship, what are the details of these activities and the provision involved?

Asked by : Hon LEE Chuek-yan

Reply :

It is important for the Labour Department to explain to employers and employees the distinction between employer/ employee relationship and contractor/ sub-contractor relationship because employees come under the protection of labour laws while sub-contractors do not. The purpose of the publicity activities is to enhance the awareness of both the employers and employees on the rights and responsibilities associated with these two relationships. The details of the publicity activities are as follows :

- (i) Publishing 20 000 copies of special guides on distinguishing employer/ employee relationship and contractor/ subcontractor relationship for wide distribution to employers and employees.
- (ii) Enhancing public awareness of the distinction through media programmes

including APIs, media interviews, newspaper quiz and press releases.

- (iii) Uploading such information to the Labour Department's Homepage and sending out newsletters reaching some 100 000 establishments.
- (iv) Disseminating such information to the public through the special fax message functions of the Department's Telephone Enquiry Services.
- (v) Promoting understanding of the difference between an employee and a sub-contractor through personnel manager clubs and industry-based tripartite committees.

The estimated cost for items (i) and (ii) above is \$110,000. It is not possible to provide a separate breakdown of the financial provision for the remaining items as they form part of the Department's overall on-going promotional activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB193

Question Serial No.

0868

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the usage rate of the Interactive Employment Service (iES) website of the Labour Department? Are there any measures to help the job-seekers who do not have any access to the Internet at home and those who have no knowledge of the Internet to make use of electronic means for employment service?

Asked by : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

The Interactive Employment Service (iES) website of the Labour Department is one of the most frequently visited government web sites. Since its launch in March 1999, the site has recorded 77 261 000 hits. The average number of daily hits in 2000 was about 121 000.

The iES is participating in Government's Electronic Service Delivery Scheme. Our web site can thus be accessed through the 100 public information kiosks under this Scheme installed at convenient locations like MTR stations, KCR stations, shopping malls and government offices. In addition, about 600 computers with Internet connection are available for public use at selected

community centres, District Offices, public libraries, post offices and Labour Department's Job Centres; and a further 1 600 computers are available at non-government organizations.

The iES is designed to be user-friendly. Most functions can be used through making selection from a list of options. To promote this web site and demonstrate to the public how iES may be used to help them, exhibitions are held regularly. If the public should come across any difficulties in using the iES, they can always call the Labour Department Job Centres or obtain advice from staff of the offices where the public computer terminals are located.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB194

Question Serial No.

0869

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : (a) Please provide a breakdown of the applications to the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund in the past 3 years by the time needed for making payment to an applicant.

(b) Are there any measures to shorten the time needed for making payment to an applicant?

Asked by : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

(a) The Labour Department's performance pledge is to complete the processing of applications to the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund and make payment to eligible applicants within 10 weeks from the date a petition for the winding-up or bankruptcy of an employer is filed by the applicants or after Legal Aid Department has recommended payment without a petition. The average payment time was 5.3 weeks in 2000. A breakdown by payment time is provided below:

<u>Payment time</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
4 weeks or less	4 421 (37.43%)	5 300 (36.63%)	4 318 (38.33%)
More than 4 weeks and up to 6 weeks	2 841 (24.06%)	2 635 (18.21%)	2 015 (17.89%)
More than 6 weeks and up to 8 weeks	2 362 (20.00%)	3 317 (22.92%)	1 921 (17.05%)
More than 8 weeks and up to 10 weeks	2 186 (18.51%)	3 219 (22.24%)	3 012 (26.73%)
	<u>11 810 (100%)</u>	<u>14 471 (100%)</u>	<u>11 266 (100%)</u>

(b) We have taken the following measures to shorten the payment time as much as possible :

- Enhancement of the computer system of the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund to speed up payment to applicants;
- Simplification of work measures to streamline operation; and
- Internal redeployment of resources to cope with any upsurge in workload when circumstances so require.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB195

Question Serial No.

0877

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question :
- (a) As job-seekers can now apply jobs directly, does it imply that the workload of the staff originally responsible for job placements is lessened? If yes, has the Department arranged other jobs for them and what are the types and nature of the jobs?
 - (b) The opening up of job orders enables job-seekers to apply jobs directly. How does the Department know that a vacancy is already filled by a suitable candidate so as to remove the vacancy in display?
 - (c) What is the method for obtaining statistics on the number of placements secured by job-seekers through direct application to employers?
 - (d) Of the 60 000 estimated placements, how many placements are anticipated to be secured by job-seekers through direct job application to employers?
 - (e) Has the Department kept statistics on the number of persons who have used the Employment Service website and the number of persons who have secured a job through the website since its setting up? What is the estimated number of persons who will

seek jobs through the website in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

- (a) The placement figure of the Employment Service of the Labour Department increased from 47 111 in 1999 to 59 164 in 2000. In the same period, the number of placements achieved by job seekers who directly approached employers without the referral of the Labour Department increased by 77%, from 13 637 to 24 125. However, the number of placements secured through the referrals of the Labour Department did not fall but recorded an increase of 5% from 33 474 to 35 039. This is clear indication that there is still a strong demand for the service of our placement officers.
- (b) Job-seekers and employers will provide information to update the status of job vacancies in the data bank of the Labour Department. If they do not do so, we will contact the employers to update the latest status of their vacancies. Employers do take the initiative to ask the Department to remove their vacancy orders from our data base such that they would not be further bothered by continuing streams of calls from job seekers.
- (c) Labour Department conducts from time to time surveys on employers with opened-up vacancies (i.e. vacancies displaying the means of contact with the employer) posted up in Labour Department job centres and the iES and who have subsequently cancelled their opened-up vacancies. The surveys enquire on the different channels of recruitment used by an employer for the vacancy that has been registered with the Labour Department. With the help of employers, the surveys aim at estimating the percentage of the cancelled vacancies that are filled by job-seekers who apply directly to employers with the vacancy information obtained from the Labour Department. The percentage so derived is then applied to the total number of opened-up vacancies that has been cancelled in each month to estimate the number of placements secured by job-seekers through direct applications to employers.
- (d) It is estimated that the number of placements secured by job-seekers through direct job application to employers in the year 2001 will be about the same as that in 2000, i.e. 24 500.

(e)

Since the launch of the Interactive Employment Service in March 1999, the web site has recorded 77 261 000 hits. On the average, the daily hits were 70 000 and 121 000 in 1999 and 2000 respectively. It is however difficult to estimate the number of people who have secured employment through the web site in the past or in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB196

Question Serial No.

0878

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In Programme (1), the revised estimate for 2000-01 was over \$4m more than the approved estimate. Why?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

The 2000-01 Revised Estimate for Programme (1) is \$4.8m higher than the Approved Estimate. This includes an increase of \$4.2m in respect of actual salary pay to staff in 2000-01. There is no increase in the establishment as approved in the 2000-01 Printed Estimates.

The remaining \$0.6m increase includes \$0.5m for the enhancement of general office and computer equipment to enhance customer service, and \$0.1m for the office removal of the labour relations service offices under the Department's reprovisioning and integration programme of our local employment service offices, our labour relations service offices and our careers information centres.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB197

Question Serial No.

0879

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the number of labour disputes and claims where conciliation service had not been rendered because the employers concerned were insolvent or could not be reached for conciliation service?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

In 2000, there were 510 labour disputes and claims where conciliation did not take place because the employers concerned were insolvent. In addition, there were 964 claims where the employers could not be reached for conciliation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB198

Question Serial No.

0880

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the respective job nature of the 12 non-directorate posts to be deleted? What will be the savings generated? How will the savings be allocated?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

The 12 posts to be deleted in 2001-02 are :

- 1 Occupational Safety Officer II,
- 6 Assistant Clerical Officers,
- 3 Clerical Assistants,
- 1 Office Assistant, and
- 1 Typist

The Occupational Safety Officer II is responsible for the enforcement of safety and health legislation and the remaining are for the provision of general support services.

Out of these 12 posts, 9 are deleted under the Enhanced Productivity Programme and the remaining 3 posts are deleted as manpower savings arising from the

implementation of a computerisation project. The savings achieved through such deletion, which amount to \$2.036 m per annum, are deducted from the Department's estimates.

It must be stressed that the quality of service provided to the public by the Department will not be in any way affected as the deletion is made possible by computerisation and the streamlining of work processes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB199

Question Serial No.

0975

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : As mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02, changes will be introduced to the Employees Compensation Assistance Scheme. What are the details or direction of the changes?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

After thorough consultation with the Labour Advisory Board, the Administration proposes to introduce the following changes to the Employees Compensation Assistance Scheme with a view to restoring its financial viability in the long run :

- (a) To provide an ex gratia payment in lieu of common law damages to an injured employee who has been awarded common law damages by the court but is unable to receive his entitlement from his employer or insurer;
- (b) To strengthen the role of the Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Board in managing claims, including the power to join in as a party to the legal proceedings to protect the interests of the Fund;
- (c) To impose a surcharge on employers who have failed to take out

employees' compensation insurance; and

- (d) To raise the rate of levy, which is collected on employees' compensation insurance premium, by 1%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB200

Question Serial No.

0983

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Government intends to introduce changes to the Employees Compensation Assistance Scheme. What are the changes being planned? What is the amount of financial provision involved?

Asked by : Hon James TIEN Pei-chun

Reply :

After thorough consultation with the Labour Advisory Board, the Administration proposes to introduce the following changes to the Employees Compensation Assistance Scheme with a view to restoring its financial viability in the long run :

- (a) To provide an ex gratia payment in lieu of common law damages to an injured employee who has been awarded common law damages by the court but is unable to receive his entitlement from his employer or insurer;
- (b) To strengthen the role of the Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Board in managing claims, including the power to join in as a party to the legal proceedings to protect the interests of the Fund;

- (c) To impose a surcharge on employers who have failed to take out employees' compensation insurance; and
- (d) To raise the rate of levy, which is collected on employees' compensation insurance premium, by 1%.

The proposed reform of the Scheme would not have any financial nor staffing implications for the Government.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB201

Question Serial No.

0965

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding the programmes for promoting tripartite collaboration between employers, employees and the government, please give an account of the details and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon James TIEN Pei-chun

Reply :

The Workplace Consultation Promotion Unit (WCPU) of the Labour Department promotes direct and voluntary negotiation between employers and employees. One of the means to achieve this end is through promotion of collaboration in tripartite committees in individual industries. At present, we have formed eight tripartite committees for the following industries, viz. catering, construction, theatre, warehouse & cargo transport, property management, printing, hotel & tourism, and cement & concrete.

For the first half of 2001-02, three practical guides will be produced by the tripartite committees. These include guides on :

- the use of written employment contracts and wage records in the construction industry;

- the importance of distinguishing “contract of employment” from “contract for service” in the cargo transport industry; and
- skills upgrading opportunities in the printing industry.

Major programmes to promote tripartite collaboration on the trade/industry level include :

- forming working groups to draw up skills upgrading programmes for the catering, printing and cargo transport industries;
- promotion of the use of written employment contracts in the construction industry;
- seminar to enhance the awareness of employees’ rights and benefits in the warehouse & cargo transport industry; and
- seminar on the future technological development of the printing industry and challenges for printing workers.

The estimated cost for launching the above activities is \$211,000.

For the second half of 2001-02, a study will be conducted on the employment characteristics of the property management industry. Preparatory work is in progress. Tripartite committees and working groups on skills upgrading in the respective industries will further discuss and decide on the specific activity or programme they wish to launch.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB202

Question Serial No.

0987

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : As regards "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02", the Labour Department has indicated that it will strengthen voluntary co-operation between employers, employees and the government on employment matters at the trade/ industry level through organizing programmes like seminars and workshops to promote tripartite collaboration. How many programmes (seminars and workshops) will be organized? How many participants will there be? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon David CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

- (a) To strengthen the promotion of direct and voluntary negotiation between employers and employees at the industry level, the Labour Department has formed tripartite committees for eight industries namely, catering; construction; theatre; warehouse &

cargo transport; property management; printing; hotel & tourism; and cement & concrete.

- (b) For the first half of 2001-02, three practical guides will be produced by the tripartite committees. These include guides on
- (i) the use of written employment contracts and wage records in the construction industry;
 - (ii) the importance of distinguishing “contract of employment” from “contract for service” in the cargo transport industry; and
 - (iii) skills upgrading opportunities in the printing industry.

Major programmes to promote tripartite collaboration on the trade/ industry level include :

- (i) forming working groups to draw up skills upgrading programmes for the catering, printing and cargo transport industries;
- (ii) promotion of the use of written employment contracts in the construction industry;
- (iii) seminar to enhance the awareness of employees’ rights and benefits in the warehouse & cargo transport industry; and
- (iv) seminar on the future technological development of the printing industry and challenges for printing workers.

For the second half of 2001-02, a study will be conducted on the employment characteristics of the property management industry. Preparatory work is in progress. Tripartite committees and working groups on skills upgrading in the respective industries will further discuss and decide on the specific activity or programme they wish to launch.

- (c) The estimated cost for launching the activities planned for the first half of 2001-2002 is \$211,000. It is estimated that 30 000 copies of the three guides listed above will be printed and about 1 500 participants will take part in the seminars and other promotional activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB203

Question Serial No.

0988

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : As stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02, the Labour Department will develop a new computer programme to facilitate trade unions in managing the membership and subscription records of trade union members. How many trade unions and their members will benefit from the plan? What is the expenditure involved? When will the computer programme be completed?

Asked by : Hon David CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

We have earmarked \$40,000 to develop the computer programme which aims to assist trade unions in managing the membership and subscription records of their members. The computer programme will be distributed to all registered trade unions in the fourth quarter of 2001. As at the end of February 2001, there were 637 registered trade unions with an estimated total membership of about 700 000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 204

Question Serial No.

0989

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Among 'the matters requiring special attention in 2001-02', the Labour Department indicates that it will introduce a pilot scheme for the long-term unemployed aged 40 or above by providing them with intensive careers counselling and job matching service. Will there be a quota for the service? If yes, what will be the quota? What is the estimate expenditure involved? When will the Labour Department review the effectiveness of the scheme?

Asked by : Hon David CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

The Re-employment Pilot Programme for the Middle-aged will last for one year and aims at placing 2 000 clients into employment. The budget for **the** Programme is \$9.8m, 75% (\$7.35m) of which has been earmarked for the year 2001-02. The effectiveness of the Programme will be reviewed in early 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 205

Question Serial No.

0990

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : As stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02, the Labour Department will publicise the new features of the Interactive Employment Service (iES) among job-seekers and employers and encourage them to make more extensive use of electronic means for employment service. How many job-seekers are now using the iES and the electronic means for employment service? What percentage of the total number of job-seekers do they account for? What measures will the Labour Department take to help job-seekers to use the electronic employment service?

Asked by : Hon David CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

From March 1999 to 11 March 2001, the Interactive Employment Service (iES) has recorded a total of 77 261 000 hits. The average daily hits was 121 000 in 2000. It is however difficult to estimate the number of people who have secured employment exclusively through the web site. Job-seekers normally

use a range of channels to source vacancy information. Through hyperlinks built in the iES, the iES users can also have ready access to the vacancy information in major local private employment web sites.

In 2001, the Labour Department has set aside \$500,000 to publicise and guide job-seekers to make better use of the interactive Employment Service and its new features through the staging of exhibitions and distribution of leaflets. Job seekers can gain access to the iES even if they do not have computers at home because the iES is participating in Government's Electronic Service Delivery Scheme. Our web site can thus be accessed through the 100 public information kiosks under this Scheme installed at convenient locations like MTR stations, KCR stations, shopping malls and government offices. In addition, about 600 computers with Internet connection are available for public use at selected community centres, District Offices, public libraries, post offices and Labour Department's Job Centres; and a further 1 600 computers are available at non-government organizations.

The iES is designed to be user-friendly. Most functions can be used through making selection from a list of options. If the public should come across any difficulties in using the iES, they can always call the Labour Department Job Centres or obtain advice from staff of the offices where the computer terminals are located.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB206

Question Serial No.

0991

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02, the Labour Department states that it will develop and implement a new Self-help Integrated Placement Service (SHIPS) programme to improve the job-searching skills of job-seekers with a disability, thereby enhancing their employment opportunities. What is the main difference between this programme and the existing services? What will be the number of target clients? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon Daivd CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

The new "Self Help Integrated Placement Service (SHIPS)" programme supplements the traditional personal placement service of the Selective Placement Division (SPD) of the Department whereby each disabled job-seeker is given personal attention by a placement officer who provides a full range of employment services including employment counselling, job matching and referral, and follow-up service after placement. The essence of the SHIPS programme is to help the disabled job-seekers to help themselves. It aims at enhancing the job-searching skills of the disabled job-seekers and encouraging

them to be more proactive and independent in the search for jobs. First of all, group counselling sessions would be provided to the disabled job-seekers to improve their inter-personal skills and interviewing techniques. Computer facilities (including internet browsing), telephones and fax machines, and access to the up to date careers information are made available to them in the SPD offices. With the assistance and support of the placement officers, they are then encouraged to search and apply for suitable jobs on their own initiative. About 600 disabled job-seekers will benefit from the programme in 2001. No additional recurrent funding is required and the Labour Department will absorb the initial outlay in such items as installation of fax machines and computers for launching the programme. The manpower required will be provided through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB207

Question Serial No.

0992

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02", the Labour Department indicates that it will consult relevant parties with a view to taking forward the recommendations of the study on the feasibility of recognising Chinese medicine under labour legislation. What is the progress of this work plan? When will the consultation be completed and the recommendations be taken forward?

Asked by : Hon David CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

The Administration is consulting relevant parties, including the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board, Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board and Hospital Authority, on the recommendations of the study on the feasibility of recognising Chinese medicine in labour legislation. We will consult the Labour Advisory Board in mid 2001. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, we plan to introduce necessary legislative amendments into the Legislative Council in the 2001-02 legislative session.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 208

Question Serial No.

1195

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 90 Subhead (No. & Title) :

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The number of warnings issued by occupational safety officers was increased from 32 650 in 1999 to 35 467 in 2000 and the number of prosecutions taken was increased from 2 916 in 1999 to 3 071 in 2000. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

In 2000, more ad hoc blitz operations had been launched in response to an upward trend of accidents in some trades. As a result, we conducted a total of 131 455 inspections to workplaces, representing an increase of 16 560 inspections over that of 1999. Coupled with the fact that we had stepped up our enforcement action against the poor performers and recalcitrant offenders, more warnings were therefore issued and more prosecutions were taken out.

Signature : _____

Name in Block Letters : Mrs. TAN KAM Mi-wah, Pamela

Post Title : Commissioner for Labour

Date : 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 209

Question Serial No.

1196

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What are the details of the occupational safety and health management information system planned to be developed in 2001-02? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The Occupational Safety and Health Management Information System ("System") will link up the departmental headquarter with district and field staff of the Occupational Safety and Health Branch of the Labour Department and facilitate analysis of the Department's occupational safety and health related information. The System, if installed, will enable important information to be provided for strategic planning, policy formulation and identification of problems thereby improving safety and

health services provided to the public, as well as enhancing the Department's performance in law enforcement, education and prosecution. We obtained funding approval from the Finance Committee in June 2000.

We invited tender for the System in November 2000. Evaluation of the tender proposals is currently in progress. It is expected that the development of the System will start between April and May this year and the System will be ready for trial run in mid-2002.

The estimated non-recurrent cost for the System will be \$26.66 million. The recurrent expenditure for maintaining and supporting the System, including staff cost, will be \$6.7 million per annum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB210

Question Serial No.

1197

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Labour Department plans to issue new Codes of Practice on Safety Management, Bamboo Scaffolding Safety etc. to provide practical guidance on safety and health at work in 2001-02. What is the time-table for issue and the expenses involved?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The Labour Department plans to issue the following four Codes of Practice in 2001 and the planned time-table is as indicated below :

	Title	Time-table for issue
1	Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety 竹棚架工作安全守則	End of March 2001
2	Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety 金屬棚架工作安全守則	Mid-2001
3	Code of Practice on Mechanical Handling Safety in Container Storage Yards	Mid-2001

	貨櫃存放場內機械處理安全工作守則	
4	Code of Practice on Safety Management 安全管理工作守則	Late 2001

As the preparation of Codes of Practice is one of the many on-going tasks undertaken by the Occupational Safety and Health Branch of Labour Department, it is not possible to provide a separate breakdown of the financial provision for this type of work alone.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 211

Question Serial No.

1198

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please explain why the estimated number of examinations conducted and exemptions granted for the issue or endorsement of certificates of competence in 2001 is less than that in 2000.

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The estimated number for the examinations conducted and exemptions granted for the issue or endorsement of certificates of competency for 2001 is 500 whilst the actual number of such examinations/exemptions in 2000 was 581.

In 2000, there was an upsurge of examinations/exemptions arising from an unexpected increase of applications from medical staff for attending autoclaves and sterilizers. This is a one-off exercise and is unlikely to continue in 2001. Taking into account the average figures in the last few years and the gradual decrease in the number of boilers used locally, it is reasonable to maintain the estimate of examinations/exemptions for 2001 at 500 the same as for 2000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 212

Question Serial No.

1199

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Have the manpower and costs involved in introducing new legislation to provide for rest breaks after a certain period of work been included in the draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02? If the answer is yes, how much? When will the work concerned be completed?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply :

The Administration has undertaken to explore whether new regulations to provide for rest breaks to protect workers' safety and health at work should be introduced. In order to collect data on the subject, we have commissioned the Census and Statistics Department to conduct a survey on rest breaks as a sub-topic of the General Household Survey in the first quarter of 2001. We will examine the survey results expected to be available in mid-2001 and decide on the way forward.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 213

Question Serial No.

1296

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Right and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The number of sick leave clearance interviews conducted in 2000 was 75 515. There was a decrease of 4 000 interviews when compared to the figure of 79 754 in 1999. Why ?

Asked by : Hon HO Chun-yan

Reply :

The number of sick leave clearance interviews was reduced from 79 754 in 1999 to 75 515 in 2000 for the following reasons:

- (a) The number of direct settlements and minor cases which do not require sick leave clearance interviews increased from 25 311 in 1999 to 25 778 in 2000 ; and
- (b) Simplification in sick leave clearance procedures has reduced the number of interviews per injured worker.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 214

Question Serial No.

1297

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Administration processed 13 582 applications for payment under the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund in 2000. How many applications were successful with the claimants being granted the amount they claimed? How many applications were refused? What were the reasons for refusal?

Asked by : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan

Reply :

A breakdown of the 13 582 applications in 2000 is as follows :

Approved	11 266
Refused	965
Withdrawn	1 351

The approved amount of ex gratia payment is subject to the payment limits of the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Ordinance and to the applicants' legal entitlements under the Employment Ordinance.

The main reasons for refusing the 965 applications were (a) lack of sufficient documents; (b) lack of evidence to support the applications; and (c) the concerned applicants were themselves company directors of the insolvent companies in question and hence did not qualify for assistance under the Fund.

The reasons for the withdrawals by applicants were mainly (a) direct settlement between employers and employees; (b) direct settlement between employees and liquidators; and (c) the applicants had decided not to pursue their claims for various reasons.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB215

Question Serial No.

1298

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In 2000, the number of employee compensation claims processed was 71 708. Why is it higher than the estimated number of 70 000 for that year by 1 708? Why is it estimated that the increase will slow down in 2001 so that the number of claims will only increase by about 300?

Asked by : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan

Reply :

The estimated number of 70 000 employee compensation claims in 2000 was based on the total claims processed in the previous year. The actual number of claims received and processed in the year was 71 708. As the number of work accidents may fluctuate, a slight deviation of 2% from the estimated figure is considered reasonable.

The estimate of 72 000 employee compensation claims to be processed in 2001 is based on the number of compensation claims received in 2000, as we do not have any information to predict whether the number of compensation claims would vary significantly in 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 216

Question Serial No.

1299

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The placement rate of people with disabilities has increased by 10% from 1999 (43%) to 2000 (53%) and is expected to have a further 5% increase in 2001 (58%). As the economic climate in Hong Kong has just gradually recovered, what measures have been or will be taken by the Department to ensure the achievement of such a good placement target for disabled job-seekers and how much resources have been put into this area of work?

Asked by : Hon LAW Chi Kwong

Reply :

We estimate that in 2001, the number of disabled job-seekers seeking assistance from the department to be 3 800 and the number placed to be 2 200, representing a placement rate of about 58%. We will take the following measures to achieve this target:

1. Our newly implemented computer system helps to enhance the efficiency of our placement service to the disabled, and provides instant and easy access to the large pool of vacancies captured by the 11 Job Centres of the department.
2. We will develop and implement a new "Self Help Integrated Placement

Service (SHIPS)" to enhance the job-searching skills of the disabled job-seekers, and help them to be more proactive and independent in the search for jobs, thereby enhancing their employment prospects.

3. We will continue the "Trial Placement Scheme for People with a Disability" to encourage employers to recognise the working abilities of the disabled through a 1-month trial placement.
4. We have scheduled an array of public education and promotional programmes to promote the employment of people with a disability. This includes producing a new radio programme, staging seminars and exhibitions in collaboration with employers' associations, and organising annual awards to commend enlighten employers and outstanding disabled employees.

The estimated expenditures for the placement service to the disabled in 2001-2002 is about HK\$18.16 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB217

Question Serial No.

1300

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Why is it that the targets for employment services have not been boosted by the implementation of the Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP)? Will the benefits obtained by implementing the EPP be reflected on the performance targets in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The objective of the Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP) is to enhance the productivity of the public sector and the savings identified are returned to the Administration for re-investment in the public service. We have been able to maintain the current level of our employment services despite the reduction in the number of staff as a result of the EPP exercise.

Signature : _____

Name in Block Letters : Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title : Commissioner for Labour

Date : 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 218

Question Serial No.

1301

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Vacancy information will be displayed within 24 hours upon receipt of request from employers. Is the vacancy information uploaded to the website within the same time?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Yes, vacancy information will also be uploaded to the interactive Employment Service webpage within 24 hours upon receipt of request from employers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB219

Question Serial No.

1302

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What are the details of the Self-help Integrated Placement Service (SHIPS) programme? What is the estimated expenditure? Is it a short-term or long-term programme? What is the number of target recipients of the service? How are the candidates selected for the programme? How many staff are involved in this programme? Have they received training on professional counselling?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The "Self Help Integrated Placement Service (SHIPS)" programme supplements the traditional personal placement service of the Selective Placement Division (SPD) of the department. The essence of the SHIPS programme is to help the disabled job-seekers to help themselves. It aims at enhancing the job-searching skills of the disabled job-seekers and encouraging them to be more proactive and independent in the search for jobs.

First of all, group counselling sessions would be provided to the disabled job-seekers to improve their inter-personal skills and interviewing techniques. Computer facilities (including internet browsing), telephones and fax machines,

and access to the update careers information are made available to them in the SPD offices. With the assistance and support of the placement officers, they are then encouraged to search and apply for suitable jobs on their own initiative.

This will be an on-going programme. Any motivated and assertive disabled job-seeker registered with the SPD may enroll for the programme through their placement officer. The programme will serve about 600 disabled job-seekers each year.

No additional recurrent funding is required and the Labour Department will absorb the initial outlay in such items as installation of fax machines and computers for launching the programme. The existing 16 placement officers of the SPD will take turn to share out the work of the programme and all officers concerned are required to undertake special training in employment counselling.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 220

Question Serial No.

1303

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : N/A

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide further information on the following items under Subhead 700:

- (a) The approved commitment for Item 528 "To publicise major provisions of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance through a series of promotional and educational activities" under Subhead 700 is \$1.1m. Why was there no such expenditure in 1999-2000 and 2000-01? Does the Labour Department plan to use this fund in 2001-02?
- (b) The approved commitment for Item 529 "To publicise the Interactive Employment Service" under Subhead 700 in 2001-02 is \$500,000.00. Why was there no such expenditure item in 1999-00 and 2000-01. Does the Labour Department plan to use this fund in 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- a) No expenditure was incurred in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 under the capital account Subhead 700 Item 528 because prior to 2001-02, all expenditure on publicising the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (ECO) was funded under the recurrent account of the Labour Department.

To further strengthen the Department's efforts in educating employers and employees on the ECO, a one-off commitment of \$1.1m is provided under the capital account Subhead 700 Item 528 on top of the Department's recurrent provisions. Of this amount, \$0.95 m will be used in 2001-02 and the remaining \$0.15 m in 2002-03. The fund will be used to publicise the major provisions of the ECO, including those on compulsory insurance and reporting of work accidents.

The publicity campaign will include placing advertisements on public buses and the MTR, staging exhibitions, launching TV and radio announcements, disseminating leaflets and posters, organising seminars and workshops, as well as producing information kits and CD-ROMs for employers, employees and their respective associations.

- b) In 1999-2000 and 2000-01, all expenditures for publicising the Interactive Employment Service (iES) were incurred under the recurrent account of the Labour Department.

A one-off commitment of \$500,000 under Subhead 700 Item 529 for publicising the iES is provided for the year 2001-02. We plan to spend this money in 2001-02 to stage a series of exhibitions and to produce and distribute leaflets on iES. This provision is in addition to the recurrent provisions of the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 221

Question Serial No.

1304

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : 246 million has been allocated for implementing the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme. What are the major expenditure items? How long will the programme last for?

Asked by : Hon Law Chi Kwong

Reply :

The Government has earmarked \$246m to implement the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme for two years from 2000-01 to 2001-02 and its On-the-Job Training Scheme for three years from 2000-01 to 2002-03. The major expenditure items include expenses for providing training courses, allowance for trainees during workplace attachment training, and training subsidy for employers under the On-the-Job Training Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB222

Question Serial No.

1305

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the breakdown of the occupational accident figures by trades/industries, causes of accidents and so on for each of the past two years?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Occupational injuries for 1999 broken down by economic activity and type are given in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively below.

Table 1

Occupational injuries in 1999 by major economic activity

Major Economic Activity	1999
Agriculture and Fishing	107 (1)
Mining and Quarrying	14
Manufacturing	6792 (40)
Electricity and Gas	61

Construction	14174 (64)
Wholesale & Retail Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	17272 (9)
Transport & related services, Storage and Communication	5694 (41)
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services (including Import & Export Trade)	3933 (42)
Community, Social & Personal Services	10708 (38)
Activities not adequately defined	86
Total	58841 (235)

Note: Figures in brackets denote the number of fatalities.

Table 2

Occupational injuries in 1999 by type of accident

Type of Accident	1999
Trapped in or between objects	705 (4)
Injured whilst lifting or carrying	9214
Slip, trip or fall on same level	11433 (3)
Fall of person from height	2287 (34)
Striking against fixed or stationary object	6642
Striking against or struck by moving object	10049 (1)
Stepping on object	418
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	546 (1)
Contact with electricity or electric discharge	81 (5)
Trapped by collapsing or overturning object	207 (6)
Struck by falling object	969 (7)
Struck by moving vehicle	1867 (74)
Contact with moving machinery or object being machined	2081 (3)
Drowning	6 (6)
Exposure to fire	84 (3)

Exposure to explosion	29 (1)
Injured by hand tool	6521
Injured by fall of ground	5 (1)
Asphyxiation	5 (2)
Contact with hot surface or substance	3994
Injured by animal	353
Injured in workplace violence	679 (3)
Others	666 (81)
TOTAL	58841 (235)

Note: Figures in brackets denote the number of fatalities.

2. Statistics for the whole year of 2000 are not yet available because a few accidents which occurred near the end of the year may have yet to be reported to the Labour Department. The statistics for the first three quarters of 1999 and 2000 are given in Table 3 and Table 4 respectively below for reference.

Table 3

*Occupational injuries by major economic activity
First three quarters of 1999 and 2000*

Major Economic Activity	First three quarters of 1999	First three quarters of 2000
Agriculture and Fishing	73 (1)	65
Mining and Quarrying	11	8 (1)
Manufacturing	4966 (27)	5318 (29)
Electricity and Gas	42	56
Construction	10881 (50)	9188 (39)
Wholesale & Retail Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	12755 (8)	13224 (8)

Transport & related services, Storage and Communication	4203 (26)	4235 (21)
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services (including Import & Export Trade)	2879 (33)	3254 (26)
Community, Social & Personal Services	8010 (32)	8335 (28)
Activities not adequately defined	49	34
TOTAL	43869 (177)	43717 (152)

Note: Figures in brackets denote the number of fatalities.

Table 4

Occupational injuries broken down by type of accident

First three quarters of 1999 and 2000

Type of Accident	First three quarters of 1999	First three quarters of 2000
Trapped in or between objects	500 (3)	550 (2)
Injured whilst lifting or carrying	6865	6886
Slip, trip or fall on same level	8494 (4)	8813 (1)
Fall of person from height	1724 (28)	1681 (18)
Striking against fixed or stationary object	4936	4849
Striking against or struck by moving object	7563	6966
Stepping on object	350	325
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	413 (1)	434 (2)
Contact with electricity or electric discharge	71 (7)	52 (7)
Trapped by collapsing or overturning object	141 (5)	100 (1)
Struck by falling object	775 (5)	608 (2)
Struck by moving vehicle	1329 (52)	1683 (35)
Contact with moving machinery or object being machined	1535 (2)	1426 (3)
Drowning	3 (3)	3 (2)
Exposure to fire	64 (1)	105 (2)
Exposure to explosion	27 (1)	22 (4)

Injured by hand tool	4730	4852
Injured by fall of ground	4	6 (2)
Asphyxiation	3 (1)	5 (3)
Contact with hot surface or substance	3048	2983
Injured by animal	292	187 (1)
Injured in workplace violence	498 (3)	605 (6)
Others	504 (61)	576 (61)
TOTAL	43869 (177)	43717 (152)

Note: Figures in brackets denote the number of fatalities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB223

Question Serial No.

1306

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Will there be any plan to review the definition of occupational diseases to extend their coverage so as to strengthen the protection to employees in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Occupational diseases are defined as diseases that occur exclusively among workers exposed to specific hazards.

It is the Department's practice to review the definition and the list of occupational diseases from time to time for the protection of employees' health. The Department had completed a review and consequently, the number of occupational diseases was increased from 47 to 49 in mid-1999. In the light of international recommendations on the definition of occupational diseases, and taking into account local situation, we will decide whether, and if so, when to conduct another review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB224

Question Serial No.

1307

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the breakdown of the prosecution figures by nature of the offence for each of the past two years?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

In 2000, the Labour Department prosecuted more offences on failure to grant statutory holidays, non-payment of holiday pay and payment in lieu of granting holidays. It was the result of stepped up inspections to commercial buildings and new shopping centres. The Department will continue its enforcement and publicity efforts to protect employees' rights and benefits.

/...

The following is a breakdown of the prosecutions taken out by the Administration to safeguard employees' rights and benefits in 1999 and 2000:

Offences	Number of Prosecutions	
	1999	2000
Offences under the Employment Ordinance (mainly failure to grant statutory holidays, non-payment of holiday pay and payment in lieu of granting holidays)	3 134	3 685
Offences under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance for failure to take out insurance	960	1 068
Offences under the Immigration Ordinance for failure to keep employee record and to produce the record for inspection	40	50
Offences under the Employment of Children Regulations for illegal employment of children	3	5
Miscellaneous offences such as employing young persons during prohibited hours, obstructing public officers in performing public duty under other labour regulations/ordinances	1	4
Total	4 138	4 812

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB225

Question Serial No.

1308

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the breakdown of the number of imported workers currently working in Hong Kong by trades/industries and job titles?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

As at 28 February 2001, 1 490 imported workers admitted under the Supplementary Labour Scheme were working in Hong Kong. Tables showing the distribution of these workers by industry and major job titles are given in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

附件一
Appendix 1

透過補充勞工計劃來港而
仍在港工作的輸入勞工按行業劃分的情況
(以 2001 年 2 月 28 日當日計)
Distribution of Imported Workers Admitted
under the Supplementary Labour Scheme
who were still remaining in Hong Kong by industry
(as at 28.2.2001)

行業 Industry	輸入勞工人數 No. of Imported Workers
漁農業 Agriculture and Fishing	532
社區、社會及個人服務業 Community, Social & Personal Services	447
製造業 Manufacturing	293
批發、零售、進山口貿易、飲食及酒店業 Wholesale, retail & I/E Trades, Restaurants & Hotels	112
建造業 Construction	87
運輸、倉庫及通訊業 Transport, Storage & Communications	10
金融、保險、地產及商用服務業 Financing, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	9
總數: Total :	1 490

透過補充勞工計劃來港而
仍在港工作的輸入勞工主要工種
(以 2001 年 2 月 28 日當日計)
**Major job titles of Imported Workers Admitted
under the Supplementary Labour Scheme
who were still remaining in Hong Kong
(as at 28.2.2001)**

工種 Job Title	輸入勞工人數 No. of Imported Workers
禽畜 / 家禽 / 魚場技工 Livestock / Poultry / Fish Farm Worker	522
護理員 (長者服務) Care Worker (Elderly Service)	417
平車車工 / 縫盤工 General Sewing Machine Operator / Linking Machine Operator	145
豆腐 / 芽菜 / 黃豆加工工人 Bean Curd / Soya bean / Bean Sprout Processing Worker	53
機器操作工 Machine Operator	45
大型隧道鑽進機機械工 / 大型隧道鑽進機操作員 / 隧道機械工 / 隧道礦工 TBM Mechanic / TBM Operator / Tunnel Mechanic / Tunnel Miner	28
竹棚工 Bamboo Scaffolding Worker	17
品質管制員 / 品質保證技術員 / 品質檢查員 Quality Controller / Quality Assurance Technician / Quality Inspector	12
其他 Others	251
總數: Total :	1 490

Bureau Serial No.

EMB226

Question Serial No.

1309

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Will there be any plan to review various labour laws in respect of employees' rights and benefits so as to strengthen the protection to employees in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The Administration plans to review various labour legislation in respect of employees' rights and benefits in 2001-02 as follows :

- (a) recognising Chinese medicine in labour legislation – we are consulting relevant parties, including the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board, Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board and Hospital Authority, on the recommendations of the feasibility study conducted by the Labour Department, which was completed in 2000;
- (b) the Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme - a Working Group formed to review the benefits under the Scheme and the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance is meeting regularly; and
- (c) the Employees' Compensation Ordinance – a review is being conducted on the settlement procedures for minor injuries and access to information related to work accident etc. with the objective of streamlining the

processing of employees' compensation claims.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB 227

Question Serial No.

1310

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 90

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Labour

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In 2000-01, the expenditure under Item 500 "Pneumoconiosis compensation scheme" of Subhead 700 was only \$100,000.00. As there is a balance of about \$1.5m under that item, does the Labour Department have any plan to improve the scheme so as to fully utilize the resources?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The fund sought under this item for 2000-01 is earmarked for making a lump sum ex gratia payment to persons who were diagnosed as suffering from pneumoconiosis before the commencement of the Pneumoconiosis (Compensation) Ordinance in 1981 and could not benefit from the Ordinance.

These pre-1981 pneumoconiotics are also entitled to further benefits, such as quarterly payments until death, under an Ex Gratia Scheme set up in 1993. It is Government's policy to bring the benefits under the Ex Gratia Scheme broadly in line with those under the Ordinance. Although these benefits to the pre-1981 pneumoconiotics have improved through these years, it is still necessary to preserve the lump sum payment to those pneumoconiotics who have not yet received such amount. The sum of \$1.5 million is reserved under the subhead to ensure that prompt payment could be made to those pneumoconiotics as they turn up for assistance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Pamela TAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Labour

Date _____ 20 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB228

Question Serial No.

0318

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 173 Student Financial Assistance Agency Subhead : 156 Kindergartens-fee assistance

Programme : Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer : Controller, Student Financial Assistance Agency

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide the number of kindergarten pupils receiving half fee remission and full fee remission under the Kindergarten Fee Remission Scheme in 1998/99 and 1999/2000, their percentages of the total number of kindergarten pupils and the total household income limit for full fee remission.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The number of kindergarten pupils receiving half fee remission and full fee remission and their respective take-up rates in 1998/99 and 1999/2000 are as follows –

School year	Half fee remission		Full Fee remission	
	No.	Take-up rate	No.	Take-up rate
1998/99	64 569	37.6%	1 325	0.8%
1999/2000	61 387	36.6%	3 741	2.2%

Under the Kindergarten Fee Remission Scheme (KGFR), eligibility for assistance is assessed on a points system that takes into account the applicant's monthly income and size of his family. As an illustration, in 1998/99 and 1999/2000, a four-member family with two children at school earning not more than \$6,500 per month would be eligible for full fee remission. With effect from 2000/01, the points scoring system under the KGFR Scheme has been improved such that each dependent child (including the pupil applicant), aged 3 or above and pursuing pre-primary education, will score one additional point. As a result, the same four-member family earning not more than \$8,300 per month would be eligible for full fee remission in 2000/01. As at 12.3.2001, the number of full fee remission beneficiaries has thus increased to 4 754 (representing a take-up rate of 3.1%).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	J.D. WILLIS
Post Title	C,SFAA
Date	17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB229

Question Serial No.

0319

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 254 Loans to Students Subhead : 102 Non-means-tested loan
Scheme

Programme : Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer : Controller, Student Financial Assistance Agency

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please explain why the revised estimate for the Non-means Tested
Loan Scheme in 2000-01 is \$215m less than the approved estimate?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The revised estimate for the Non-means Tested Loan Scheme (NLS) in 2000-01 takes account of a projected lower take-up of loans. Experience in the past two years since the introduction of the NLS has shown that the actual take-up of loans is lower than the amount applied for. In 1998-99 and 1999-00, amounts of \$506.6 million and \$426.1 million were respectively offered to loan applicants. The actual loans disbursed in these two years were \$325.9 million (64.3%) and \$280.7 million (65.9%) respectively. As the NLS was introduced with effect from the 1998/99 academic year, this trend, i.e. a lower loan take-up, was not evident in mid-1999 when the 2000-01 draft estimate was prepared.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ J.D. WILLIS

Post Title _____ C,SFAA

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 173 Student Financial Assistance Agency Subhead : 155 Travel subsidy for primary school pupils

275 Student travel scheme

Programme : Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer : Controller, Student Financial Assistance Agency

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : In 1999 and 2000 respectively:

- (1) how many primary and secondary school students applied for travel subsidies because of the need to commute to schools outside their residential districts;
- (2) what is the average time for these students to commute to schools;
- (3) what is the total amount of travel subsidies provided to these students; and which 5 districts have the largest number of students commuting to schools outside their residential districts and what is the number of students involved?

Asked by : Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan

Reply : The information requested is as follows –

- (1) Number of primary and secondary school students who attended schools in another district and applied for travel subsidies :

School year	Primary school students		Secondary school students		Total no. of students	
	No. of applications	No. of successful applications	No. of applications	No. of successful applications	No. of applications	No. of successful applications*
1999/00	9 292	8 426	53 916	51 151	63 208	59 577
2000/01 (up to 13.3.01)	13 562	11 984	54 772	51 372	68 334	63 356

* The student travel subsidy schemes are means tested.

- (2) We do not have information on the average travelling time of students to commute to school. The travelling time for each student varies and is dependent on a number of factors, such as the distance between the students' residence and location of their schools, the type and choice of transport available and traffic conditions. However, for students to be eligible for assistance, they must live beyond ten minutes' walking distance from their schools.

- (3) The amount of travel allowance provided to students who attended schools in another district.

School year	Primary school students	Secondary school students	Total
1999/00	\$13,093,017	\$84,479,528	\$97,572,545
2000/01 (up to 13.3.01)	\$18,644,754	\$101,616,341	\$120,261,095

- (4) The five districts which have the largest number of student-applicants commuting to schools outside their residential districts and the number of students involved :

Primary school students

District	1999/00	District	2000/01 (up to 13.3.01)
Sai Kung	1 282	Wong Tai Sin	1 763
Wong Tai Sin	1 182	Sai Kung	1 510
Kwun Tong	1 094	Kwun Tong	1 474
Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi	959	Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi	1 396
Sham Shui Po	669	Yau Tsim Mong	1 099

Secondary school students

District	1999/00	District	2000/01 (up to 13.3.01)
Wong Tai Sin	6 129	Wong Tai Sin	6 613
Kwun Tong	5 489	Yau Tsim Mong	5 329
Sai Kung	5 225	Sai Kung	5 317
Yau Tsim Mong	4 658	Kwun Tong	5 195
Shatin	4 034	Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi	3 831

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ J.D. WILLIS _____

Post Title _____ C,SFAA _____

Date _____ 17 March 2001 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EMB232

Question Serial No.

1384

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 173 Student Financial Assistance Agency Subhead : 275 Student travel scheme

Programme : Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer : Controller, Student Financial Assistance Agency

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

- (a) Please provide the number of successful students under the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme in the 2000/01 academic year and the average amount of subsidy granted to each of these students.
- (b) Please provide the estimated number of successful students under the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme in the 2001/02 academic year and the average amount of subsidy to be granted to each of these students.
- (c) Please explain why the revised estimate of the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme for the 2000/01 academic year is \$82 million higher than the original approved estimate. (\$378,966,000-\$296,966,000)

Asked by : Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply :

- (a) For the 2000/01 school year, 198 110 students have received a travel allowance under the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme up to 12 March 2001. The average travel allowance per student is \$1,756.
- (b) For the 2001/02 school year, we estimate that about 220 700 students will receive a travel allowance, averaging \$1,792 per student.
- (c) The revised estimate for the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme exceeds the approved estimate by \$82 million because -
 - (i) On 26 May 2000, Finance Committee approved an improvement to the rate of grant to 100% of the average fare payable by students and an introduction of a two-tier system of full-rate and half-rate grants. The cost of the improvements was \$40 million; and
 - (ii) On 15 December 2000, Finance Committee approved a supplementary provision of \$42 million to cover a projected shortfall in the approved provision, due to an increase in the number of successful applicants and an increase in the amount of travel subsidy.

Signature

Name in block letters	J.D. WILLIS
Post Title	C,SFAA
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB233

Question Serial No.

1385

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 173 Student Financial Assistance Agency Subhead : 156 Kindergartens-fee assistance

Programme : Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer : Controller, Student Financial Assistance Agency

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) Why is there an estimated increase of \$4m in the funds disbursed for fee remission while there is a decrease in the estimated number of applications of the Kindergarten Fee Remission Scheme? What fees are to be paid by the increased funds;
- (b) What is the average income of families applying for kindergarten fee remission; and
- (c) The details of the relaxation of the means test for the Kindergarten Fee Remission Scheme.

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

- (a) Under the current arrangement, children aged three or above may be admitted to a kindergarten at anytime during a school year. With effect from the 2001/02 school year, the admission age will be lowered to cater for children aged 2 years and 8 months as at 31 August. While this change would not affect the number of students seeking assistance under the Kindergarten Fee Remission Scheme (KGFRS) during the school year, additional financial provision is required to cover increased payments arising from the earlier admission of these students. Additional funding is also required to cover increased tuition fees to cater for the introduction in the 2001/02 school year of an enhanced teacher : pupil ratio, from 1 : 20 to 1 : 15 for nursery classes, and the gradual employment of more qualified kindergarten teachers. The total additional funding under the KGFRS in 2001/02 is estimated to be \$21 million.
- (b) Based on the monthly income of families who are successful in obtaining fee remission in 2000/01 (up to 12 March 2001), the average monthly income is \$12,017 per month.
- (c) Eligibility for fee remission under the KGFRS is assessed on a points system which takes into account the applicant's monthly income and the size and composition of his family. A score of 5 points to 17 points would entitle the applicant to receive half fee remission and a score of 18 points and above would allow for full fee remission.

With effect from the 2000/01 school year, the points scoring system under the KGFRS has been improved such that each dependent child (including the pupil applicant), aged 3 or above and pursuing pre-primary education, will score one additional point. The provision of an additional point would enable some families who would otherwise be eligible for half fee remission to obtain full fee remission, and some families who would not have been eligible under the former points system to receive half fee remission.

Signature

Name in block letters	J.D. WILLIS
Post Title	C,SFAA
Date	19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB234

Question Serial No.

0040

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead : 728

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : What is the increase in the programmes to be validated/re-validated in 2001-2002 in comparison with 2000-2001?

Asked by : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply : The UGC commissions the Hong Kong Council of Academic Accreditation to conduct validation/re-validation exercises for the Hong Kong Institute of Education which is non-self-accrediting. The numbers of validation/re-validation exercises conducted in 2000-01 and to be conducted in 2001-02 are set out below:

	2000-2001	2001-2002
Validation/Re-validation of Programmes	4	5
Validation of new modules in a validated programme	2	0

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P. T. Cheung

Post Title _____ Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB235

Question Serial No.

0041

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead : 002 Allowances

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please state the reasons for the increased requirements for overtime allowances. Are there any special programmes being planned?

Asked by : Hon. Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply : The slight increase of \$31,000 (+3.7%) in the provision for allowances in 2001-02 is mainly for the overtime work that may be required due to the expected increase in general activities and workload of the University Grants Committee Secretariat. The requirement is not related to any specific programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P T Cheung

Post Title _____ Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB236

Question Serial No.

0042

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead : 001 Salaries

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Despite the fact that no additional post is created, the expenditure on salaries shows an increase of 2.4%. Is the increased amount meant for covering increments in salaries?

Asked by : Hon. Audrey EU Yuet-mee

Reply : Yes, the increase of the salaries provision of \$488,000 (+2.4%) in 2001-02 is a normal course of action to cater for the grant of increments to eligible staff working in the University Grants Committee Secretariat who have not yet reached the maximum point of their pay scales.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P T Cheung

Post Title _____ Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB237

Question Serial No.

0113

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead :

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

- Question : (a) Currently, it is quite common for university graduates to undergo a long period of unemployment after graduation. This indicates that the economy has not fully recovered yet and the market is unable to absorb a large number of graduates immediately. However, an additional 685 undergraduate places will still be provided in 2001/02. Why doesn't the Government reduce the number of undergraduate places and pool the resources to improve the quality of university graduates?
- (b) There have been constant complaints from the business sector about the decline of language standards among our fresh graduates. A high level of language proficiency among the local graduates is essential for Hong Kong to maintain its competitiveness as an international business centre. Why then is the number of language enhancement projects reduced from 137 to 114, decreasing by 16%, in 2001/02?

Asked by : Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung

- Reply : (a) The number of first-year-first-degree places has been maintained at 14 500 since the 1994/95 academic year. The slight increase in undergraduate places for the 2001/02 academic year is mainly due to the expansion of Bachelor of Education programmes, which last for four years, to replace the sub-degree pre-service teacher training places (Certificate in Education). This is in line with the Government's policy to upgrade the quality of teachers.
- (b) Language Enhancement Grants (LEGs) were introduced in

1991/92 as “seed money” or “matching funds” for institutions to put in place facilities and new initiatives for language enhancement. The aim is that institutions would come up with funds from their block grants or other sources, and incorporate language enhancement as universities’ regular core activities. Since 1991/92, institutions have already set up language training centres, developed various language programmes and integrated these programmes into the institutions’ core activities. They have also tightened their minimum entry requirements under which only students with a pass in both English and Chinese are admitted. The slight reduction of LEGs allocation in 2001/02 is in recognition of the institutions’ increased ability to run the programmes on their own as part of their recurrent activities. It is not envisaged that the slight decrease in LEG-funded projects in 2001/02 will affect the quality of language enhancement activities in the institutions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P T Cheung

Post Title _____ Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date _____ 17 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB239

Question Serial No.

0399

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead :

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The recurrent grants provided by the University Grants Committee for its funded institutions are for use in the following three main areas: teaching, research and professional activities. As regards the provision for teaching purpose, the amount of grants is pegged to such factors as the number of students, course level, mode of teaching and discipline type. Please give the estimated unit cost per student for each discipline in 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Based on the funding for the UGC-funded institutions, the projected average student unit cost for the 2001/02 to 2003/04 triennium will be **\$226,360**. According to statistics in the 1999/2000 academic year, institutions on average spent **76.8%** of their total cost on teaching and related activities.

Teaching costs vary according to disciplines. Some subjects are more expensive than others because they require special equipment, laboratory or more staff time, etc. Relative weighting by broad academic programme categories (APC) for the allocation of funding by the UGC is shown in the following table:

	Academic Programme Category (APC)	Range of Relative Cost Weightings		
1.	Medicine	4.0	-	5.0
2.	Dentistry	3.5	-	5.0
3.	Studies Allied to Medicine & Health	1.4	-	2.4
4.	Biological Sciences	1.3	-	3.8
5.	Physical Sciences	1.3	-	3.2
6.	Mathematical Sciences	0.9	-	1.5
7.	Computer Science & IT	0.9	-	1.5
8.	Engineering & Technology	1.2	-	2.3
9.	Architecture & Town Planning	1	-	1.6
10.	Business & Management Studies	0.8	-	1.6
11.	Social Sciences	1	-	1.6
12.	Law	1	-	1.6
13.	Mass Communication & Documentation	1	-	1.6
14.	Languages & Related Studies	0.8	-	1.5
15.	Humanities	0.9	-	1.2
16.	Arts, Design & Performing Arts	1.3	-	1.8
17.	Education	0.9	-	1.4

Once the funds are allocated to the institutions, it would be up to individual institutions to determine how to allocate among different disciplines.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Jack Chan

Post Title Acting Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date 19 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB240

Question Serial No.

0668

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead : 169 Visitation

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding the provision for the visitations of the University Grants Committee (UGC) members, will the Government inform this Council of :

- (a) the total number of visitations made outside Hong Kong in 1999 and 2000; and
- (b) the average allowance payable to each of the staff of the UGC Secretariat participating in these visitations?

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : (a) Five overseas duty visits involving UGC members and UGC Secretariat staff were conducted: two in 1999/2000 and three in 2000/2001.

(b) The subsistence allowance to UGC Secretariat staff is granted according to the Civil Service Regulations. The standard rate of allowance varies with the officer's salary, the duration of overseas duties and the country (city) of visit. For the five visits referred to, the average allowance payable to an officer is about HK\$1,820 per person per night, inclusive of hotel, local transport and out of pocket expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P. T. Cheung

Post Title _____ Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB241

Question Serial No.

0929

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead :

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : (a) Following a cutback in the provision for UGC-funded institutions, the average student unit cost in the coming three years will be further reduced from \$228,544 in the current financial year to \$226,360. If tuition fees remain unchanged, will this contravene the principle that tuition fees should not exceed 18% of the unit cost?

(b) If so, is it necessary to reduce the tuition fee?

Asked by : Hon SZETO Wah

Reply : Based on the funding allocations to the UGC-funded institutions, the average student unit cost will be reduced by 1% from \$228,544 in 2000/01 to \$226,360 in the 2001/02 – 2003/04 triennium to reflect mainly the deflation in the 1998/99 to 2000/01 triennium. Since 1997/98, the tuition fee levels of degree, sub-degree and Certificate of Education courses have been maintained at \$42,100, \$31,575 and \$15,040 respectively. The tuition fee income as a percentage of the total funds made available to the UGC sector has been consistently below our target of achieving 18% cost recovery in the UGC sector throughout the 1998/99 - 2000/01 triennium. Based on the reduced student unit cost for the 2001/02 - 2003/04 triennium and the current tuition fee levels, the tuition fee recovery rate is calculated to be 17.4%, which is still lower than the target recovery rate of 18%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P T Cheung

Post Title _____ Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB243

Question Serial No.

0979

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead :

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please state the reasons for the reduction in the number of full-time students attending sub-degree courses in 2001-02 as compared with that of 2000-01.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The reduction in the total number of sub-degree places in 2001/02 is due to the upgrading of sub-degree pre-service teacher training places for primary and secondary schools of the Hong Kong Institute of Education to places at degree or above levels, in accordance with the Government's policy to improve the quality of teacher education. The number of sub-degree places at other institutions remains unchanged.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P T Cheung

Post Title _____ Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date _____ 13 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB244

Question Serial No.

1205

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : Head 190 University Grants Committee Subhead :

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide the percentage of the recurrent expenditure of respective UGC-funded institutions that is expended on the emoluments for academic staff from 1998/99 to 2000/01.

Asked by : Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply : The staff-related expenditure of the eight institutions in 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 as a percentage of their total expenditure is as follows –

Institution	Staff-related expenditure as percentage of total expenditure	
	1998/99	1999/2000
CityU	76.3%	66.4%
HKBU	78.4%	78.5%
LU	84.8%	83.9%
CUHK	79.9%	75.2%
HKIEd	68.8%	70.2%
PolyU	77.8%	77.9%
HKUST	75.4%	75.1%
HKU	72.8%	73.5%
All institutions	76.2%	74%

The above are gross figures for all staff. There is no breakdown between academic and non-academic staff costs available to UGC. Statistical information for 2000/2001 will not be available until late 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P T Cheung

Post Title _____ Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB245

Question Serial No.

1206

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead :

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Will the Government provide a list of tertiary institutions which plan to offer sub-degree and degree training places for pre-service primary and secondary school teachers in the 2001/02 – 2003/04 triennium as well as the recommended number of training places for the same triennium?

Asked by : Hon. Jasper TSANG Yok-sing

Reply : During the 2001/02 to 2003/04 academic years, pre-service teacher training places in the UGC-funded sector are provided by Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and The University of Hong Kong (HKU). The latest planned figures of full-time equivalent (fte) places to be provided by these institutions by level are as follows :

Institution	Level	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
HKBU	Ug	0	60	90
	TPg	60	82	100
CUHK	Ug	233	248	248
	TPg	205	205	205
HKIEd	SD	1012	666	290
	Ug	1225	1594	1915
	TPg	134	168	221
PolyU	Ug	30	60	75
HKUST	Ug	60	90	110
HKU	Ug	187	212	241
	TPg	284	279	274
Total	SD	1012	666	290
	Ug	1735	2264	2679
	TPg	683	734	800

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P T Cheung

Post Title _____ Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date _____ 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB246

Question Serial No.

1207

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead :

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Please provide an account of the 8 existing UGC-funded institutions' expenditure on non-teaching (e.g. administrative and alumni) activities in the last triennium and the estimated expenditure in this respect for the next triennium. Are the expenses fully covered by government subvention? If not, please provide separate lists of the subvented and non-subvented items. If so, what are the percentages of the subventions for non-teaching activities in the total grants allocated to the 8 institutions for the last triennium and the next triennium respectively?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply : Recurrent grants are provided to the eight UGC-funded institutions in a lump sum to support their academic and related activities including non-teaching activities as set out in their approved academic development plans and in accordance with their roles and missions. Subject to broad parameters, the institutions are allowed to decide on the allocation of funds (comprising government grant and tuition fee/other income) to various academic and supporting activities.

Based on the information provided by the institutions, the total spending on their non-teaching central support activities

(including administration, computing, libraries, academic support, campus maintenance and student amenities etc) in 1998/99 and 1999/2000 academic years were \$6,288m and \$6,534m respectively, representing 40.5% and 39.4% of the total recurrent expenditure of the institutions in these two years. We expect that institutions would follow a similar pattern of expenditure on these activities in the 2000/01 academic year and the 2001/02 to 2003/04 triennium, but will only be informed of the exact allocations ex post facto.

Expenditure incurred in relation to the self-financing programmes and other non-UGC-funded activities are not chargeable to the recurrent grants.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ P T Cheung

Post Title _____ Secretary-General,
University Grants Committee

Date _____ 16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB247

Question Serial No.

1469

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 190 University Grants Committee Subhead :

Programme : University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer : Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : To undertake a second round of the Teaching and Learning Quality Process Reviews (TLQPRs), the University Grants Committee (UGC) has set up a TLQPR Task Force. Please provide details of this Task Force's specific duties and expenditure since its establishment.

Asked by : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply : The Teaching and Learning Quality Process Reviews (TLQPRs) Task Force was set up under the UGC in June 2000 to advise the UGC on matters relating to the design of the second round of TLQPRs. The Task Force has met twice since its establishment and has considered, in consultation with the UGC-funded institutions, the following:

- (i) purpose and scope of the reviews;
- (ii) parameters and methodology of the reviews;
- (iii) review timetable; and
- (iv) composition of the review panel

The UGC is seeking the institutions' comments on an advanced design of the reviews, and aims to finalise the design later this year. It is the plan of the UGC to commence the reviews in the latter half of 2001.

Meetings of the Task Force coincide with the regular UGC meeting cycle and therefore do not incur any additional cost, except for administrative expenses which are absorbed within the budget of the UGC Secretariat.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

P T Cheung

Secretary-General,

Post Title _____

University Grants Committee

Date _____

16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB248

Question Serial No.

0421

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (3) School Educational Television Production

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Government has stated in the 2001-02 Draft Estimates that the target output of ETV school production is 175 programmes. Though the output is reduced as compared with 212 programmes for 2000-01, it is still considered "sufficient to keep the programmes abreast of the changing needs". Please explain this in detail.

Asked by : The Honourable CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 1997, a comprehensive review was conducted on school ETV programmes. In the light of the feedback gathered from the education sector, it was decided to extend the coverage of ETV programmes to primary one and two as well as senior secondary levels. Putonghua programmes would also be produced for all levels to facilitate Putonghua teaching. To this end, the Government has increased the annual output of ETV programmes from 138 in 1998 to 212 in 2000. In 2001, the annual production output will be lowered to 175 programmes and it is expected that this level of production output, coupled with programmes produced in the past, will be adequate to support teaching and learning in schools.

The Government will conduct regular reviews on ETV programmes in the light of the curriculum development and students' needs to ensure that high quality ETV programmes are provided.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : CHU Pui-hing

Post Title : Director of Broadcasting

Date : 19.3.2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB249

Question Serial No.

0661

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (3) School Educational Television Production

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : The Government has set the annual target of school ETV productions at 175, a reduction of nearly 20% as compared with the targets for 1999 and 2000. Will the Government inform the Council of how RTHK can keep the programmes abreast of the changing needs of the educational sector and cater to the need of updating knowledge while reducing the production output?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : In 1997, a comprehensive review was conducted on school ETV programmes. In the light of the feedback gathered from the education sector, it was decided to extend the coverage of ETV programmes to primary one and two as well as senior secondary levels. Putonghua programmes would also be produced for all levels to facilitate Putonghua teaching. To this end, the Government has increased the annual output of ETV programmes from 138 in 1998 to 212 in 2000. In 2001, the annual production output will be lowered to 175 programmes and it is expected that this level of production output, coupled with programmes produced in the past, will be adequate to support teaching and learning in schools.

The Government will conduct regular reviews on ETV programmes in the light of the curriculum development and students' needs to ensure that high quality ETV programmes are provided.

Signature

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 19.3.2001

Bureau Serial No.

EMB250

Question Serial No.

1474

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Programme : (3) School Educational Television Production

Controlling Officer : Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : From 2001 onwards, RTHK will reduce its production target to 175 ETV school programmes each year, which is claimed to be sufficient to keep the programmes abreast of the changing needs. What is the rationale for this? Did RTHK evaluate the impacts of the reduction in programme output on students? If so, what are the results of the evaluation? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : The Honourable CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : In 1997, a comprehensive review was conducted on school ETV programmes. In the light of the feedback gathered from the education sector, it was decided to extend the coverage of ETV programmes to primary one and two as well as senior secondary levels. Putonghua programmes would also be produced for all levels to facilitate Putonghua teaching. To this end, the Government has increased the annual output of ETV programmes from 138 in 1998 to 212 in 2000. In 2001, the annual production output will be lowered to 175 programmes and it is expected that this level of production output, coupled with programmes produced in the past, will be adequate to support teaching and learning in schools.

The Government will conduct regular reviews on ETV programmes in the light of the curriculum development and students' needs to ensure that high quality ETV programmes are provided.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : CHU Pui-hing

Post Title : Director of Broadcasting

Date : 19.3.2001