

**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**

**Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works
[Session No. : 5]**

Bureau Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
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Bureau Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
WB032	1487	CHAN Yuen-han	194	1

Bureau Serial No.

WB001

Question Serial No.

0175

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

Head : 703 - Buildings

Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : For Head 703, under the revised estimate for 2000-01 in respect of "Works completed, cancelled or curtailed", what are the details for each project, such as its title, provision involved, the amount of curtailment, etc.? What are the reasons for cancellation or curtailment of each project?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply : We have included 66 projects under the category "Works completed, cancelled or curtailed" under Head 703. The revised estimate of expenditure on these projects in 2000-01 will be \$32.664M. All the works under these projects have been completed and we have not cancelled or curtailed any projects under the said category. The particulars of these 66 projects are set out at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.H. PAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 26 March 2001

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Annex

<u>Project Subhead</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Revised Estimate 2000-01 (\$M)</u>
3057BL	Stability assessment of slopes and retaining walls in Provisional Regional Council venues	0.500
3066EP	Primary schools in area 90, Ma On Shan	1.000
3128EP	Two primary schools in area 6, Tai Po	0.020
3141EP	Primary school in phase II of the public housing estate in Area 41, Tseung Kwan O	0.050
3144EP	One primary school in area 100,package 23, Ma On Shan	0.014
3155EP	Primary school in area 24, Tseung Kwan O	0.283
3167EP	Primary School, area 19, Tin Shui Wai	0.187
3171EP	One Standard Primary School near Shek Yam Estate at Area 9H, Kwai Chung	0.771
3172EP	One primary school in Yiu Tung Estate, Shaueiwan, Hong Kong	0.767
3176EP	Primary School in Area 19, Tseung Kwan O	0.002
3177EP	Two primary schools in Lam Tin Estate, Kwun Tong	0.010
3180EP	Two primary schools in Tsz Lok Estate,Tsz Wan Shan	0.022
3182EP	Third primary school in Lam Tin Estate,Kwun Tong	0.473
3183EP	Non-standard primary school in area 2, Tsuen Wan	0.557
3189EP	Primary school in Whampoa Garden, Hung Hom	0.240
3193EP	Second primary school in area 37, Tseung Kwan O	0.310
3194EP	Second primary school in Whampoa Garden, Hung Hom	0.151
3223EP	Primary school in area 25, Tsuen Wan	0.149
3055ES	Two secondary schools, Ma On Shan development, package 23,Sha Tin	0.023
3064ES	Two secondary schools in Fu Shin Estate (area 17), Tai Po	0.066
3065ES	Secondary school in area 40, Fanling	0.228
3066ES	Secondary School in Area 49B, Fanling	0.101
3083ES	Two secondary schools, Area 2B, Tuen Mun	0.023
3087ES	Two secondary schools in area 15, Tseung Kwan O	0.029
3096ES	Two secondary schools, area 5, Tin Shui Wai	0.160
3107ES	Secondary school in area 47, Fanling south	0.283
3108ES	Secondary school in Phase III of the public housing estate in area 39/41, Tseung Kwan O	0.126
3109ES	Secondary school in phase I of the public housing estate in area 41, Tseung Kwan O	0.201
3116ES	One standard secondary school at Wharf Road, North Point for the reprovisioning of Henrietta school	0.142
3123ES	One secondary school in area 8, Tai Po	0.010
3124ES	Two standard secondary schools, area 16, Tin Shui Wai	0.101
3125ES	Secondary school near Tai Shui Hang, area 75, Ma On Shan	0.050
3131ES	Second standard secondary school in Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau	0.101
3135ES	Second secondary school in area 6,Tai Po	0.044
3149ES	One standard secondary School in Siu Sai Wan for the partial reprovisioning of Lingnan Secondary School	0.306
3155ES	Secondary school in area 27, Tin Shui Wai	0.092
3156ES	Secondary school in area 92, Ma On Shan	0.010
3157ES	Secondary school in area 6, Tai Po	0.004
3158ES	Secondary school in area 6B, Fanling	0.010
3160ES	Secondary school in Tsui Wan Estate, Chai Wan	0.298
3161ES	Secondary school in area 9, Tuen Mun	0.019
3207ES	Third secondary school in Siu Sai Wan, Chai Wan	0.500
3208ES	Secondary school in area 3, Tai Po	0.706
3210ES	Secondary school in area 25, Tseung Kwan O	0.724
3047ET	One special school with boarding facilities for severely mentally handicapped children at Ching Hong Road,Tsing Yi	0.080
3049ET	Noise abatement measures in government schools - stage II, phase 4 and stage III	0.004
3002JB	168 type II non-departmental quarters at Mount Butler, Hong Kong	0.010
3141JB	Purchase of departmental quarters for the disciplined services	0.001
3013JO	Purchase of departmental quarters for married staff of the Independent Commission Against Corruption	0.010
3108KA	Purchase and Fitting-out of office accommodation for the HKETO in Brussels	16.228

<u>Project Subhead</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Revised Estimate 2000-01 (\$M)</u>
3009LC	Stanley Prison - rebuilding, phase I	1.100
3014LC	Expansion of Siu Lam psychiatric centre, stage I - expansion of detention facilities (works)	0.600
3044LC	Detention and holding improvement works centres for illegal immigrants from Vietnam	0.106
3003LJ	New Supreme Court Building	0.170
3050LP	New depot for Police Tactical Unit - remaining works	0.326
3131LP	New police headquarters complex - phase I works	0.494
3180LP	Improvement to Wan Chai, Kwun Tong and Ta Kwu Ling police stations	0.272
3212LP	Provision of indoor firing ranges at Ngau Tau Kok	0.891
3022MC	Ha Kwai Chung Polyclinic.	0.600
3042MC	Yau Ma Tei Jockey Club polyclinic extension	0.002
3011MH	Queen Mary Hospital - extensions and improvements - consultants' fees	0.440
3044MH	Siu Lam Hospital extension	0.010
3068MH	Pamela Youde Hospital - consultants' fees	0.500
3072MH	Shum Wan laundry	0.816
3090MH	Queen Elizabeth Hospital - A & E / observation ward, specialist clinic and additional office accommodation	0.031
3085SC	Neighbourhood community centre, area 6, Tai Po	0.110
	66 projects	32.664
	Total	

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Bureau Serial No.

WB002

Question Serial No.

0176

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 704 - Drainage

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : For Head 704, under the revised estimate for 2000-01 in respect of "Works completed, cancelled or curtailed", what are the details for each project, such as its title, provision involved, the amount of curtailment, etc.? What are the reasons for cancellation or curtailment of each project?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The revised estimate for 2000-01 in respect of "Works completed, cancelled or curtailed" under Head 704 is \$8,200,000. It comprises the following projects for which works have been completed. No projects have been cancelled or curtailed.

Subhead (Code)	Approved projects	Revised Estimate 2000-01 \$'000
4051CD	Stormwater drain from Gascoigne Road to Canton Road	300
4078CD	Stormwater drainage masterplan study in Tuen Mun and Sham Tseng	500
4079DS	Pokfulam sewerage district – sewage treatment and disposal scheme	6,700
4190DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 2, phase 1	700
<i>Total for Head 704</i>		8,200

Signature _____
Name in block letters J. Collier
Post Title Director of Drainage Services
Date 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

WB003

Question Serial No.

0182

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 709 - Waterworks

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : For Head 709, under the revised estimate for 2000-01 in respect of "Work completed, cancelled or curtailed", what are the details for each project, such as its title, provision involved, the amount of curtailment, etc? What are the reasons for cancellation or curtailment of each project?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply : Under Head 709, the item "Works completed, cancelled or curtailed" comprises one project for which works were completed in 2000-01, viz. 005WF - Monitoring and control of service reservoir supplies. The revised estimate for 2000-01 is \$100,000. There is no project for which works have been cancelled or curtailed.

Signature

Name in block letters

Hugh Phillipson

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

14 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB004

Question Serial No.

0272

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

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

- Question : (a) How much resources will be allocated for the enhancement of public education campaigns on slope safety?
- (b) How much resources will be allocated for the works on upgrading of dangerous slopes? How many upgrading works are expected to be carried out next year?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : (a) We have a dedicated team to promote slope safety through the educational and publicity program. The team comprises a Senior Geotechnical Engineer, two Geotechnical Engineers, a Senior Technical Officer (Geotechnical) and a Technical Officer (Geotechnical) under the supervision of a Chief Geotechnical Engineer in the Slope Safety Division of the Geotechnical Engineering Office. It is estimated that non-staff expenditures, including printing of publicity materials and production of a training course on slope maintenance to be made available on the Internet for 2001-02 are \$1.3 million.

- (b) Between 2000 and 2010, about \$9 billion (in December 2000 prices) will be spent on upgrading 2,500 substandard government slopes and safety screening studies on 3,000 private slopes. In 2001-02, \$883 million will be allocated for upgrading of 250 substandard government slopes and safety screening studies on 300 private slopes.

Signature

Name in block letters

Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

WB005

Question Serial No.

0275

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Water Quality Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : (a) How much resources will be reserved by the Water Supplies Department to ensure that the potable water quality conforms to drinking water standards?

(b) Please list out the content of the publicity programmes for "Quality life needs Quality water".

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

(a) In 2001-02, the provision for water quality control is \$168.8 million. It covers expenditure on staff, chemicals and equipment for regular surveys and monitoring of water quality at all water sources, in various stages of the treatment process and throughout the entire supply and distribution systems to ensure the quality of treated water supplied to consumers conforms to the World Health Organization Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality. The provision is almost the same as the revised estimate of 2000-01 except that funds for purchase of certain new equipment in the current financial year will not be required in the coming year.

(b) The publicity programmes on "Quality life needs Quality water" focus on three main themes as follows: -

1. Promote public awareness of plumbing maintenance - Through seminars and MTRC advertisement packages, the importance of maintaining pipes and cleaning

of water tanks is publicized to promote the awareness of individual households and building management companies of their obligations and to foster their cooperation with Water Supplies Department (WSD).

2. Promote understanding of stringent water quality control – To organise open days at treatment works and widely distribute leaflets on water quality control to enhance public understanding of WSD’s stringent control on drinking water quality; and to make known to the public that the potable water supplied to consumers is in full compliance with World Health Organization Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality and is safe for direct consumption.
3. Publicize water conservation and new customer services - To promote water conservation and introduce new services for customers through the production of a promotional video disc.

Signature

Name in block letters

Hugh Phillipson

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

14 March 2001

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Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION****Head** Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 704 - Drainage**Programme** :**Controlling Officer** : Director of Drainage Services**Bureau Secretary** : Secretary for Works**Question** : What is the number of stormwater drainage projects under detailed design for this financial year? How many of them are major flood prevention projects in flood prone areas of the New Territories? Please provide details of these projects, their completion dates and financial resources required.**Asked by** : Hon WONG Yung-kan**Reply** : In 2001, Drainage Services Department will continue with the detailed design of 16 stormwater drainage projects. Ten (10) of them are major flood control projects in the New Territories. The details of these projects are listed below:-

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost in September 2000 Prices (\$M)	Brief Description
4064CD	Rural drainage rehabilitation scheme	mid 2005	168	To rehabilitate streamcourses at Chow Tin Tsuen, Sha Po and Mo Fan Heung
4090CD	Regulation of Shenzhen River, stage III	mid 2005	468	To train the Shenzhen River from the confluence with River Indus at Lo Wu to the confluence with River Ganges at Lo Shue Ling
4092CD	Yuen Long, Kam Tin, Ngau Tam Mei and Tin Shui Wai drainage improvements, stage 1	mid 2006	517	To improve the streamcourses and drainage systems in the North West New Territories
4102CD	Drainage improvement in Tuen Mun and Sham Tseng	mid 2008	84	To improve the streamcourses in Tuen Mun and drainage systems in urban areas of Tuen Mun and Sham Tseng
4109CD	Drainage improvement in Sha Tin and Tai Po	early 2009	451	To improve the streamcourses in Tai Po and drainage systems in urban areas of Sha Tin and Tai Po
4112CD	Drainage improvement in Northern New Territories – package A	end 2008	710	To improve the streamcourses in the North District and drainage systems in urban areas of Sheung Shui and Fanling
7030CD	Village flood protection for Yuen Long, Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei, North West New Territories, stage 1 – remainder	mid 2004	105	To construct village flood protection scheme at Wang Chau
7070CD	Yuen Long bypass floodway	end 2005	422	To construct a drainage channel at Yuen Long South
7073CD	Main drainage channels and poldered village protection schemes for San Tin, NWNT, phase 3, part 1 – eastern main drainage channel for San Tin	mid 2005	360	To construct a drainage channel at San Tin
7074CD	Village flood protection for Yuen Long, Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei, NWNT - stage II	mid 2005	260	To construct village flood protection schemes at a number of flood prone villages in the North West New Territories

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

J. Collier

Director of Drainage Services

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

WB007

Question Serial No.

0361

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

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) : —

Programme : (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Lands

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Why has the number of man-made slopes requiring improvement increased significantly from 340 in 2000 to 1 200 in 2001? What is the distribution of these slopes? How much resources have to be used?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Over the past two years, Lands Department has been engaging geotechnical engineering consultants to inspect the slopes under its maintenance responsibility. With the results of these inspections, we have planned to step up our programme to carry out maintenance works to improve the surface drainage or surface protection of 1 200 slopes in 2001. To this end, we have been allocated an additional recurrent funding of \$42.2 million for slope maintenance starting from 2001-02 to enable more slopes to be improved each year. The slopes we have planned for improvement in 2001 are distributed mainly in the New Territories.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

R.D. Pope

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

14.3.2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB008

Question Serial No.

0369

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 702 - Port and Airport Development Subhead : 2060GI Government facilities for the second runway of the new airport at Chek Lap Kok

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : The estimate for 2000-01 was \$142.5M but the revised estimate is \$42.33M. What was the basis for preparation of the estimate for 2000-01?

Asked by : Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung

Reply : The works under project 2060GI were completed in late 1999. Based on the information supplied by the Airport Authority (AA), the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) for the entrusted works and the contractors' outstanding payments and unsettled claims, a sum of \$142.5M was allowed in the estimate for 2000-01 for the finalisation of the following :

- (a) The building works and the works for the provision of electronic system for the operation of the second runway, which have been entrusted to AA,
- (b) The supply and installation of air traffic control equipment which is managed by CAD, and
- (c) The construction works for the precision runway monitor tower and back up air traffic control facilities, which is managed by this department.

The negotiations by AA and CAD with their contractors and suppliers had been difficult and very slow and therefore the payments agreed and made during the year were much less than originally estimated. For item (c), the justified value is less than the amount claimed by the contractors. As a result, the revised estimate is reduced to \$42.33M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters S.H. PAU

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 15 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

ESB068
SB160
WB009

Question Serial No.

0370

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

Head : 702 - Port and Airport Development

Subhead : 2054GI Procurement of air traffic control, meteorological and postal mechanisation equipment and systems and related construction works for the new airport at Chek Lap Kok.

2057GI Stand-alone government buildings, fitting-out works within Passenger Terminal Building and remaining equipment and systems.

2060GI Government facilities for the second runway of the new airport at Chek Lap Kok.

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services (for Subhead 2054GI)
Secretary for Security (for Subhead 2057GI)
Secretary for Works (for Subhead 2060GI)

Question : There are substantial differences between 2000-01 Estimate and Revised Estimate 2000-01 for subheads 2054GI, 2057GI and 2060GI. The Estimates of 2001-02 for these three subheads are all \$10 million. Please give the bases for making the estimates.

Asked by : Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung

Reply : All three projects have been completed. Settlement of final accounts is in progress. This process depends, to a certain extent, on the submission of evidence and substantiation from contractors. The estimates for all three projects were based on information available at the time of preparation of the 2001-02 Estimate. Further payments may be made for these projects after 2001-02 subject to the result of negotiations with contractors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.H. PAU _____

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services _____

Date _____ 15 March 2001 _____

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Bureau Serial No.

WB010

Question Serial No.

0371

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

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Geotechnical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

- Question :
- (a) Civil Engineering Department mentioned about other contaminated mud management options, what are the options? When can they be implemented? Are resources reserved to implement some short-term measures suggested by the "Strategic Assessment and Site Selection Study for Contaminated Mud Disposal" study?
 - (b) How many environmental and ecological studies will CED be carried out in the coming years to understand the effect of mud dredging and mud disposal on the marine environment and ecology?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : (a) The Civil Engineering Department had considered the following four options:

Contained aquatic disposal (CAD) (existing management method)
Confined disposal facility (CDF)
Upland options (i.e. on land)
Outside of Hong Kong waters

The study found the upland options not suitable under Hong Kong circumstances. Disposal of contaminated mud outside Hong Kong waters is still being examined. Therefore, CED will continue with the development of the CAD and the CDF options. Decision on which option to be taken will depend on the outcome of the consultancy study on "Strategic Assessment and Site Selection Study for Contaminated Mud Disposal", yet to be completed. The option selected will be implemented by 2007, when the current facilities at East Sha Chau are exhausted. About \$1 million has been reserved in a block allocation under Head 705 Civil Engineering in 2001-02 for a preliminary project feasibility study to start on the recommended option when it is selected.

- (b) CED will continue ecological monitoring at the uncontaminated mud disposal areas. This is to ensure that the effect of mud disposal on the marine environment is acceptable. An ongoing monitoring programme at East Sha Chau contaminated mud disposal facility includes a substantial amount of study on marine environment and ecology including recolonisation of capped pits.

Sand was dredged at the north of the Brothers Islands for construction of the new Hong Kong International Airport. We are planning an environmental impact assessment for backfilling the exhausted sandpits using uncontaminated mud. Backfilling exhausted pits will provide much needed disposal capacity with the added benefit of reinstating the seabed.

Signature

Name in block letters

Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

16 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB012

Question Serial No.

0457

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning & Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : How many remote villages in the New Territories are still not yet provided with metered water supply? What is the programme of provision of metered water supply to these villages?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

There are 53 remote villages (with a total population of about 8500) in the New Territories not yet provided with metered water supply. Works have started for 18 of these villages and detailed designs are being prepared for 20 other villages. It is anticipated that these 38 remote villages (with a total population of about 6800) will be provided with metered water supply in stages from 2001 to 2006. We have also started the feasibility studies on the projects for the provision of metered water supply to the remaining 15 villages (with a total population of about 1700). Implementation of these projects will depend inter alia on population change and development plans for those villages.

Signature

Name in block letters

Hugh Phillipson

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

14 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB013

Question Serial No.

0458

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : How much resources will be reserved by the Water Supplies Department for inspection and maintenance of slopes and for inspection of buried watermains affecting slopes in this financial year? How much resources will be spent on improvement works of sub-standard slopes?

Asked by : Hon Wong Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2001-02, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) has earmarked about \$30 million under Head 194 for expenses on routine inspections, general maintenance and minor improvement of WSD slopes.

Apart from this, about \$46 million and \$17 million respectively will be spent in 2001-02 for upgrading works on sub-standard slopes under WSD's maintenance responsibility and for periodic inspections of water mains affecting all slopes in the territory under various projects in the Public Works Programme.

A team of about 50 professional and technical staff supports the above activities.

Signature

Name in block letters

Hugh Phillipson

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

15 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB014

Question Serial No.

0484

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : How much resources would the Administration reserve for maintaining government slopes in country parks? What are the priorities for such maintenance work?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2001-02, a recurrent provision of \$5.7 million will be allocated for routine maintenance of slopes in country parks. In addition, \$10 million will be spent under a project in the Public Works Programme on upgrading 21 slopes in country parks in the years 2000-01 to 2002-03.

Priority of maintenance works has been given to slopes with higher risk.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS LESSIE WEI

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
AND CONSERVATION

15 MARCH 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB015

Question Serial No.

0511

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

Head : 42 - EMSD Subhead (No. & title) : 700- General other non-recurrent

Programme : 4-Centralised services and special support

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please set out the contents about the hiring of services for the inspection of existing cooling towers in Hong Kong.

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The programme for the inspection of the operating conditions of some 12,000 existing freshwater cooling towers will be implemented in two phases. In the first phase, we will : -

- (a) carry out on the spot inspection to check the physical condition and water treatment method of existing cooling towers; and
- (b) collect water samples from these cooling towers for analysis by microbiological laboratories to find out whether the water samples are contaminated with Legionella pneumophila, which is a potential source of the Legionnaires' Disease.

Appropriate advice will be given to owners of poorly operated cooling towers identified.

In the second phase, re-inspection will be carried out on poorly operated cooling towers to ensure rectification is carried out.

The estimated cost of the programme is about \$9 million and it is scheduled for commencement in June, 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ROGER S.H. LAI** _____

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 15 March, 2001

Bureau Serial No.

WB016

Question Serial No.

0540

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) : —

Programme : (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Lands

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please advise us of the specific measures and the costs for the maintenance and improvement of man-made slopes on unallocated and unleased government land.

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : The measures to maintain and improve the man-made slopes falling under Lands Department's maintenance responsibility together with their estimated expenditure in 2001-02 are listed as follows:

Measures	Estimated expenditure in 2001-02 \$M
(a) Minor repairs to surface cover and drainage of slopes	19
(b) Major improvement works to slopes including provision of new surface cover and drainage systems and structural support such as soil nailing	33
(c) Consultancies for undertaking Engineer Inspections, i.e. detailed inspections by a professional engineer, on slopes and supervision of maintenance works	55

Items (a) and (c) are recurrent expenditure under Head 91 whereas item (b) is chargeable to the Capital Works Reserve Fund (Head 705 Civil Engineering).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

R.D. Pope

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

15.3.2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB017

Question Serial No.

0603

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

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Geotechnical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : The cost of public works projects are occasionally increased due to project delay or contractual claims arising from unforeseen complex geological conditions encountered on site. On the other side, some contractors disposed of uncontaminated mud near Hong Kong waters. Pollution of ocean waters has aroused public concerns. Can the Administration tell the Council –

- (a) Will the CED step up ground investigation and liaison works to ensure that ground investigation works are completed before finalizing works contracts with a view to reducing project delay and contractual claims to as low as possible? If so, do you need additional staff resources or recurrent funding? If not, why?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply : (a) Public Works projects generally have ground investigations before detailed designs are completed and contracts let. The scope of ground investigations is designed by works departments to meet the needs of individual projects. Project Administration Handbook describes arrangement and timing of ground investigation. Geoguides issued by the Civil Engineering Department depict the standard of practice for quality ground investigation works. Their requirements are mandatory to all public works projects.

Ground is inherently unknown. It is not possible for any ground investigation to reveal the full ground conditions. While we will endeavour to reduce the instances of unexpected ground conditions affecting works progress, it is impossible to eliminate such in total.

To assist works departments to properly design ground investigations, the Civil Engineering Department -

- i) collected over 30,000 ground investigation and testing reports in the Civil Engineering Library for reference by the designers;
- ii) published detailed geological information and study results; and
- iii) provides advice on geology, ground investigation and testing for public works projects.

The CED encourages the works departments to make use of these services to ensure effective ground investigation. It can provide adequate support at the present level of resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG
Post Title	Director of Civil Engineering
Date	16 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB018

Question Serial No.

0604

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : In the past few years, slope maintenance works have been an headache for many building owners. The professional service provided by the CED has been very important for private slope maintenance. On the other side, there are many cases of beautifying slopes, thereby improving the Hong Kong environment. Could the government advise this Council.

(a) In 2001-02, what is the budget for improving the appearance of slopes? What is the percentage of the total construction cost?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply : (a) The estimated expenditure on landscaping measures in 2001-02, as part of slope upgrading works under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme and slope maintenance works by government departments responsible for slope maintenance of government slope, is \$60 million. This constitutes about 10% of the total construction cost.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 15 March 2001

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Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**Head 39 Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :Programme : AllControlling Officer : Director of Drainage ServicesBureau Secretary : Secretary for Works and Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : For Subhead 149, the expenditure for 2001-02 shows an increase of \$21,808,000 (27.9%), mainly for the employment of non-civil service contract staff to assist in the operation and maintenance of sewage and drainage facilities. In this respect, could Government inform this Council :

- (a) Non-civil service contract staff will be employed to carry out maintenance duties in this financial year. Were such services provided by civil service staff in the past and now provided by non-civil service contract staff? If yes, are these civil service staff being replaced still remain in the Drainage Services Department, since there is no creation/deletion of posts in this financial year? What is the nature of their work? If no, will the department make corresponding adjustments to its service targets and indicators, since there is an increase of staff over last year?
- (b) Will the non-civil service contract staff include contractors' workers? If yes, will the department include in the contract provisions on reasonable wage and working hours? Besides, what monitoring mechanism the department has on the contracting out work?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply : (a) In 2001-02, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) will employ non-civil service contract staff mainly to meet additional service needs arising from commissioning of new sewage and drainage facilities. No civil service staff will be displaced as a result. The employment of non-civil service contract staff will not improve staffing ratio in DSD. Hence, no adjustments will be made to service targets and indicators on this account. The continued need for this staffing arrangement will depend on DSD's future plans for outsourcing the operation and maintenance of its sewage and drainage facilities.

- (b) Non-civil service contract staff in DSD are directly employed by the department and do not include workers hired by contractors.

Services provided by contractors are monitored under a well-established management system which includes performance assessment, site supervision and quality audits.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	16 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

WB020

Question Serial No.

0692

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 25 - Architectural Services Department

Subhead : 111 Hire of services
and professional fees

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Expenses for Subhead 111 this year have increased by \$2,101,000 (14%) over the last year, which the Estimates attribute to additional provision for studies and consultants' fee. For this matter, will the Government inform this Committee :

- (a) whether the Architectural Services Department will provide a table explaining briefly the purpose, the scope, the reason for hiring a consultant, the duration and expenses of each study and consultancy project; and
- (b) whether there is a set of internal guidelines within the Architectural Services Department which gives guidance in decision-making on hiring consultants and professional services as well as the requirements and expenses of each project; if so, whether the Department will forward this set of guidelines to this Committee for perusal; if not, whether the Department will draw up as soon as possible a set of such guidelines or a set of specified decision-making procedures for hiring consultants and professional services?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

- Reply :
- (a) A total of eleven consultancy studies under the ambit of Subhead 111 will be commissioned in 2001-02, the details of which are set out in the Annex.
 - (b) Consultants are appointed when in-house resources and expertise are not available to meet the specific project requirements or programmes. Rules and procedures governing the employment of consultants for undertaking Arch SD's projects are laid down in the Handbook on Selection, Appointment and Administration of Architectural and Associated Consultants issued by the Architectural and Associated Consultants Selection Board [AACSB]. The Handbook covers all matters relating to consultancies including approval, selection, fee remuneration, execution of agreements, and management of consultants etc. Currently, the Handbook is under a comprehensive review according to recommendations made in the Report of the Construction Industry Review Committee (CIRC) issued in January 2001. The Handbook is intended to be posted onto the internet for public access when the review is finalised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.H. PAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 15 March 2001

Item	Purpose/scope	Duration	Total consultant fees * (\$)
1) Consultancy study/research for investigation & recommendation of termite control and timber structural repair.	Historic buildings which are mostly constructed of timber are subject to termites infestation. The consultant is to investigate and report on how termite can be detected and to set out a programme for structural repairs, preventive inspection and treatment.	2001 - 2003	6,000,000
2) Consultancy for environmental evaluation, performance & life cycle analysis of construction materials.	To assess the environmental performance of various construction materials to enhance the sustainability of future design.	2001 - 2003	3,000,000
3) Consultancy study for strategic solutions to enhance Repair Call Centre to incorporate comprehensive maintenance and emergency services.	To enhance the existing Repair Call Center service to incorporate comprehensive maintenance and emergency repairs requests, and to provide on-line full enquiry service to clients.	2000 - 2002	3,000,000
4) Promotion examination of Survey Officer/Survey Officer Trainee (Quantity)	To employ external examiners to conduct written examination for promotion consideration of surveying officers.	2001	15,000
5) Upgrading of the computer system for monitoring the performance of consultants and contractors.	To design and develop a new computer software programme for performance monitoring to enhance the management of consultants and contractors.	2001 -2003	1,000,000
6) Enhancement and maintenance of Staff Resources Planning System (SRPS)	To enhance the existing SRPS to improve the operation of the System and to address up-to-date management needs.	2001 - 2003	900,000

Item	Purpose/scope	Duration	Total consultant fees * (\$)
7) Upgrading of Quality Management System to ISO9000: 2000	(a) To convert and streamline existing Quality Manuals so that the new requirements of ISO 9000 year 2000 version can be met, and (b) To conduct compliance audit	2001 - 2003	500,000
8) Consultancy to investigate the application of computational fluid dynamic in the design of air-conditioning system in shooting range environment.	To analyze and verify the acceptability of design options or air conditioning/ventilation systems in shooting range projects to meet the special operational requirements in respect of indoor air quality.	2001 - 2002	300,000
9) Investigation into the environmental study for building envelopes.	To study the environmental aspects (such as heat loss value) of current curtain wall design.	2001 - 2003	1,500,000
10) Investigation and recommendations to improve the LCSD venues to comply with the Barrier Free Access Standards.	To investigate and recommend improvement/conversion of existing LCSD venues for compliance of Barrier Free Access Standards.	2001 - 2003	1,500,000
11) Consultancy study for slope and drainage improvement works in the compound outside Nam She Tong Indoor Games Hall, Cheung Chau.	To investigate and recommend for improvement works to the existing slopes and drainage disposal system in the vicinity outside the indoor games hall.	2001 - 2003	1,000,000

* Requirement for 2001-02 has been provided under Subhead 111.

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Bureau Serial No.

WB021

Question Serial No.

0693

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question :

The quality of Dongjiang water has aroused general concern and discussions which focus on the cleanliness of the water source. On the other hand, the forthcoming replacement of underground fresh and salt water mains in old districts will affect road traffic and residents' daily lives. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Council :

- (a) What is the progress of development of water resources by the Water Supplies Department? Please give a brief account.
- (b) Will the Water Supplies Department carry out the replacement of water mains in old districts on the basis of minimizing road openings? With regard to the temporary suspension of water supply during the construction stage, will a mechanism and internal guidelines be established to work together with various District Councils to give advance notices to residents and take into account their complaints, so that interference to residents' daily lives can be minimized?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) We commissioned a preliminary study on alternative fresh water resources in December 1999. It identified a number of possible alternatives, which require further feasibility studies to examine their applicability in Hong Kong. The first feasibility study on desalination of seawater has

commenced in early 2001. We will soon commence the feasibility studies on expansion of local catchment areas and recycling of wastewater. The study results to be available in end 2001 will help formulate a long term strategy for the development of fresh water resources in Hong Kong.

- (b) Where technically viable, Water Supplies Department will employ trenchless techniques in the replacement and rehabilitation of water mains to reduce the extent of road openings as far as possible. During the construction stage, we will set up working groups to work in collaboration with the respective District Councils, so that the nuisance and inconvenience caused will be kept to the absolute minimum, and we will ensure that the residents will be notified in advance of any planned temporary suspension of water supply. We will also take into account residents' views and comments in the planning of the site works for the replacement and rehabilitation of water mains.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Hugh Phillipson

Post Title Director of Water Supplies

Date 14 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB022

Question Serial No.

0694

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Water Quality Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question :

As there are many factories along the Dongjiang, its water quality is a cause for concern. Will the Administration inform the Council :-

- (a) whether the Water Supplies Department will regularly take and test water samples along the upper, middle and lower reaches of the Dongjiang so as to expedite the response and progress of water quality improvement works? Moreover, will the Administration enhance the cooperation with the Guangdong authorities to more effectively crack down on discharges into the Dongjiang by factory owners?
- (b) whether the Water Supplies Department will regularly release the water quality data of the Dongjiang to the public and report to this Council the progress of water quality improvement?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) We carry out very stringent monitoring of Dongjiang water 24-hours a day at the reception point at Muk Wu Pumping Station. When there is any sign of deterioration in water quality, we will request the Guangdong Authority to take prompt actions to rectify the situation.

Moreover, with the co-operation of the Guangdong Authority, we have recently

received water quality data at Dongjiang mainstream near the intake point at Taiyuan Pumping Station for publication at the web site of Water Supplies Department (WSD). Through the co-operation with the Guangdong Authority, we are able to monitor more closely the water quality of the Dongjiang mainstream.

We will continue to liaise with the Guangdong Authority to improve the quality of Dongjiang water through the Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection. The Special Panel on the Protection of Dongjiang Water Quality under the Joint Working Group has the specific task to monitor the quality of Dongjiang water and to expedite the progress of water quality improvement works by them. In response to our request, the Guangdong Authority has taken a number of measures on water quality improvement and will continue their effort to combat pollution at source.

- (b) In August 2000, WSD published at its web site (www.info.gov.hk/wsd/) detailed treated water quality information, and quality data of Dongjiang water as received at the Muk Wu Pumping Station. The web site of the Guangdong Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau (www.gdepb.gov.cn) contains the “Guangdong Province Environmental Gazette” and the report on “Guangdong Environmental Quality” with information on water quality and the progress of water quality improvement works at various sections of the Dongjiang. Furthermore, we have recently received from the Guangdong Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau the water quality data at Dongjiang mainstream near the intake point at Taiyuan Pumping Station for the year 2000, together with their consent for publication of the data in Hong Kong. The data include information on 20 parameters during high flow, low flow and average flow periods of the year. WSD will publish the data at its web site once preparation work has been completed. The Guangdong Authority also agreed to provide in future similar data annually for release in Hong Kong.

Signature

Name in block letters

Hugh Phillipson

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

WB023

Question Serial No.

0695

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

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (6) Supervision of Mining, Quarrying and Explosives

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : According to the target information, the issue of licences/permits for year 2001-02 is 10,000 but the number of inspections is only about 3000. Since the use and storage of dangerous goods involves the safety of the life and property of the public, will government inform this Committee:

- (a) Currently, what is the average number of inspections to all the dangerous goods stores and construction sites? How many dangerous goods stores and construction sites have not been inspected over a year?
- (b) Will the department consider to increase the inspections of dangerous goods stores and construction sites? If yes, what is the increase and the related recurrent expenditure? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply : (a) Civil Engineering Department is responsible for enforcing control on Category 1 dangerous goods, i.e. explosives.

The licences and permits granted by Civil Engineering Department in this respect in 2000 include the following:

- (i) 6000 removal permits from either the Government Explosives Depot or from site magazines. These removals were either carried out or escorted by the staff of this department and are not included in the number of inspections reported.
- (ii) 4100 removal permits for low risk Category 1 dangerous goods (e.g. airbags for vehicles, safety cartridges for industrial fastening tools or for fire extinguishers etc. which contain tiny amount of explosives). In the removal permit, the time and route of removal are stated. For this kind of removal, we carried out surprise checks.
- (iii) 200 licences mainly for blasting at construction sites. The number of inspections carried out in 2000 was 1950 which included prelicensing inspections. On average, ten inspections were carried out in respect of each licence.

(iv) 200 licences for Category 1 dangerous goods store. The number of inspections carried out in 2000 was 1170. On average, six inspections were carried out in respect of each licence .

Therefore, every Category 1 dangerous goods store or blasting site had been inspected more than once in 2000.

- (b) As demonstrated by the above statistics and explanation, the current controls and inspections for Category 1 dangerous goods are very comprehensive and adequate to protect the public and persons in the trade. All construction sites having blasting and Category 1 dangerous goods stores are subject to regular inspections. We therefore consider the present level of inspections to be adequate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG
Post Title	Director of Civil Engineering
Date	15 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB024

Question Serial No.

0725

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Could the government inform this Council of

- the number and distribution of government slopes in country parks;
- the expenditure on maintenance of slopes in 2001-02 and its breakdown;
- the progress of maintenance of slopes;
- the measures that are in place to let visitors know how danger the slopes are in order to avoid accidents?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- There are about 1 000 government man-made slopes under the maintenance responsibility of this department. They are located in various country parks over the territory, with most of them in Shing Mun, Tai Lam, Tai Mo Shan and Tai Tam Country Parks.
- In 2001-02, a recurrent provision of \$5.7 million will be allocated for routine maintenance of slopes in country parks. Of this provision, \$1.7 million is staff cost and \$4 million maintenance works. In addition, \$10 million will be spent under a project in the Public Works Programme on upgrading 21 slopes in country parks in the years 2000-01 to 2002-03 through contract services.
- Slopes in country parks are maintained regularly and in turn. About 180 slopes are maintained each year. Starting from 2001-02, this number will increase to 350. Of the 21 slopes identified for upgrading, 4 were completed last year, 10 will be carried out in 2001-02 and the remainder in 2002-03.
- Up to now, no slopes in country parks have been identified as posing immediate danger. The enhanced maintenance programme to be started in 2001-02 should enhance slope safety. However, should a slope be identified to be of immediate danger, we will fence off the area and arrange repair works immediately. We will also erect signs to warn visitors while repairing works are arranged and in progress. Park wardens on patrol duty will also advise visitors accordingly.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS LESSIE WEI

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
AND CONSERVATION

15 MARCH 2001

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

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

- Question :
- (a) What are the recommended improvement measures on slope maintenance which have been implemented by departments?
 - (b) What are those not yet implemented? Why have the recommendations not yet implemented?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

- Reply :
- (a) Based on the audit of the slope maintenance works of departments, the following improvement measures recommended to departments have been implemented :
 - (i) formulated Slope Maintenance Plan to implement the slope maintenance activities;
 - (ii) established Steering Committee or Working Group to oversee, monitor and review the slope maintenance system;
 - (iii) enhanced staff training on slope maintenance; and
 - (iv) completed works to the majority of those slopes which have been identified to be in need of improvement by the maintenance audit.
 - (b) The remaining improvement works to 18 slopes inspected in the slope maintenance audit are either in progress or being arranged. These slopes are located in remote areas and, where appropriate, the affected areas have been fenced off. None of these slopes pose any immediate danger. Owing to the large no. of slopes being maintained by departments, a higher priority has been given to those slopes which could affect major developments and roads.

Signature

Name in block letters

Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

WB026

Question Serial No.

0750

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

Head : 25 - Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) - Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : In recent years, the architectural quality of public works has become a matter of public concern. Architectural quality is always related to the number of resident site staff and site inspections. In this connection, would the Government inform this Council :

- (a) of the establishment of staff assigned to work on construction sites by the Architectural Services Department and the strength of different categories of staff for 2001-02? How do the figures compare with those of private developers ?
- (b) whether the present establishment and strength are adequate to ensure the architectural quality of public works ? If not, would the Department increase the number of relevant staff and what will be the recurrent expenditure involved ?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply : (a) For building works undertaken by this department, site supervision is carried out by resident engineers, clerks of works, building services inspectors, work supervisors and field officers. As at 1 March 2001, there are 345 site supervision staff comprising the following categories :-

	<u>Establishment</u> (as at 1.3.2001)	<u>Strength</u>
(i) resident engineers	11	11
(ii) clerks of works and works supervisors for building works	234	229
(iii) building services inspectors and works supervisors for building services works	119	102
(iv) field officers for landscape works	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	367	345
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The site supervisory staff are organized into teams according to geographical districts, headed by chief clerks of works. As many of the project types undertaken by this department are not commonly handled by the private sector, and due to lack of statistical information of private projects, we cannot draw a direct comparison of our establishment with that of private developers.

- (b) The present strength and organization of our site supervisory staff are adequate to ensure quality standard required for our public building works. When there is a surge of workload, site supervision works could be outsourced to private consultants for individual projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters S.H. PAU

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 15 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB027

Question Serial No.

0776

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Heads : 56 – Works Bureau; 25 – Architectural Services Department;
39 – Drainage Services Department; 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department;
43 – Civil Engineering Department; and 194 – Water Supplies Department

Programme : various

Controlling Officer : various

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Questions : 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 : A small number of consultancy studies are commissioned by Works Bureau and the Works Departments for the purpose of policy making or policy assessment. Details of the financial provision allocated or to be allocated to these studies are given below -

(1) Financial provision that has been allocated in 2000-01

Names of consultants	Consultancy fees (\$)	Status of consultancy studies
Azeus Systems Ltd.*	1,000,000	In progress
ERM Hong Kong Ltd.*	590,000	In progress
CDM International Inc.*	300,000	In progress

(2) Financial provision that will be allocated in 2001-02

Names of consultants (if available)	Estimated consultancy fees (\$)	Status of consultancy studies
Azeus Systems Ltd.*	4,000,000	In progress
ERM Hong Kong Ltd.*	240,000	In progress
CDM International Inc.*	2,700,000	In progress
not yet available	1,700,000	Under planning
not yet available	1,700,000	Under planning

* The studies being conducted in 2000-01 will run into 2001-02.

Signature _____
Name in block letters LEE SHING SEE
Post Title Secretary for Works
Date 16 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB028

Question Serial No.

1000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : What is your estimate of the no. of squatter structures which could be affected by landslides?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply : In order to identify squatter structures which could be affected by landslides, Civil Engineering Department (CED) has an ongoing programme to systematically inspect hillside squatter areas. In the past 3 years, over 10,000 squatter structures have been inspected and about 300 of them recommended for clearance on slope safety grounds. CED will inspect another 5,000 squatter structures this year and make the necessary clearance recommendations for those structures that could be affected by landslides and inform residents accordingly.

Signature

Name in block letters Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 15 March 2001

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Bureau Serial No.

WB029

Question Serial No.

1047

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : How many slopes are responsible to be maintained and enhanced by the departments and how much is the Government spending on slope maintenance and improvement in the financial year 01-02? To assist the departments in maintaining slopes, how much is the Civil Engineering Department going to spend and how is the resources arrangement?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Government departments with slope maintenance responsibility will maintain 37,000 government slopes and improve the stability of 300 slopes in 2001-02. The estimated annual expenditure on maintenance and improvement of government slopes is \$600 million.

In addition, in 2001-02 the Civil Engineering Department will spend \$883 million for the upgrading of 250 substandard government slopes and safety screening of 300 private slopes.

The Slope Maintenance Audit Section of Civil Engineering Department audits and assists departments in slope maintenance. The Section, consisting of 1 Senior Geotechnical Engineer, 2 Geotechnical Engineers and 3 technical staff, makes recommendations to departments on ways to improve slope maintenance works and assists them in staff training such as seminars and courses for frontline staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 15 March 2001

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

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : It is estimated that safety screening studies will be carried out on 300 private slopes in 2001. How many of these slopes are located in the Wong Tai Sin and Kwun Tong District respectively? Please list the locations of the concerned slopes.

Asked by : Hon LI Wah-ming

Reply : Out of the 300 private slopes selected for safety screening studies in 2001, five are located in the Wong Tai Sin District and ten in the Kwun Tong District. The locations of these slopes are as follows:

District	Slope No.	Location of slopes
Wong Tai Sin	11NE-A/C253	Fung Shing Street
	11NE-A/C254	Hammer Hill Road
	11NE-A/C489	Hammer Hill Road
	11NE-A/CR47	Hammer Hill Road
	11NE-A/CR551	Hammer Hill Road
Kwun Tong	11NE-B/C9	Shun Chi Street
	11NE-B/C247	Shun Chi Street
	11NE-C/C66	Hong Ning Road
	11NE-C/C73	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-C/C74	Kung Lok Road
	11NE-D/CR176	Sau Nga Road
	11NE-D/F401	Sau Nga Road
	11NE-D/R46	Sau Nga Road
	11NE-D/R47	Sau Nga Road
	11SE-B/CR162	Ko Chiu Road

Information on these slopes can also be obtained from the Hong Kong Slope Safety Website (<http://hkss.ced.gov.hk>)

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Director of Civil Engineering

15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

WB031

Question Serial No.

1084(a)

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 56 Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General Other Non-recurrent

Programme : (3) Intra-governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Works

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question :

What is the present progress of the "Consultancy study on the demand and supply of manpower resources for the construction industry" under Item 525? Are there preliminary results? What are the implementation arrangements in 2001-02? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : The Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Tenders for the Consultancy Study have been invited recently. We are now evaluating the submissions. It is expected that the study will commence in May 2001 and it will take about 7 to 8 months to complete. The Study is expected to cost \$1.3 million which will be paid within 2001-02.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LEE Shing-see

Post Title Secretary for Works

Date 13.3.2001

(*)=Please refer to the following for a full reply to this question –

WB031 and PLB004

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Bureau Serial No.

WB032

Question Serial No.

1487

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Did the Water Supplies Department assess the condition of old underground watermains? If so, has the Department reserved funds to replace these old underground watermains?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Water Supplies Department has completed an Underground Asset Management Study to assess the conditions and performance of the underground watermains and has developed a plan to replace or rehabilitate about 3,000 kilometres (km) of old watermains in 20 years at an estimated total cost of \$10 billion.

We have commenced the first batch of the replacement and rehabilitation works which involve about 250 km of watermains under the Public Works Programme. The works are scheduled to be completed by 2007. We are engaging consultants to conduct investigation studies for the second batch of the replacement and rehabilitation works which involve another 250 km of watermains. The second batch of works are scheduled to commence in 2005 for completion in 2008. The remaining batches of the works will be implemented as future projects in the Public Works Programme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Hugh Phillipson

Post Title

Director of Water Supplies

Date

15 March 2001

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