

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

**Bureau Secretary/Controlling Officer :
Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Session No. : 13**

Bureau Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
SITBB001	S094	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	55	2

Bureau Serial No.

S-ITBB001

Question Serial No.

S094

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

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

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) : -
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question :

Regarding the Government's reply to the question of Serial No. ITBB006-1271:

- (a) how many Community Cyber Points are there in 2000-01 and 2001-02, and how much provision has been made for this item?
- (b) the Government in its reply said that computers at individual Community Cyber Points are provided with special facilities for use by the blind and the visually impaired. For 2000-01 and 2001-02, (A) what percentage of Community Cyber Points with such facilities represents in relation to the total number of Community Cyber Points; and (B) why do some Community Cyber Points not have such facilities?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

- (a) As at the end of 2000-01, we have set up a total of 118 Community Cyber Points at district offices, community centres/halls, post offices and centres/schools for the blind and the visually impaired, with a provision of \$16.19m. Meanwhile, public libraries, government-subsented organisations and voluntary agencies also provide public computer facilities for public use. In 2001-02, we will establish a "Super Cyber Centre" at Canton Road, Yaumatei to offer more than 100 computers for free use by the public and this requires a provision of \$2.3848m. Apart from this, we will also install 900 more computers at public libraries in various districts, government-subsented organisations and voluntary agencies. We will keep under constant review the utilization of Community Cyber Points in order to consider the ways to further implement this programme.
- (b) (A) In 2000-01, we have set up Community Cyber Points with special facilities at 8 locations that are convenient for the blind and the visually impaired, in order to increase their accessibility to information technology. This represents 7% of all the Community Cyber Points established in 2000-01. We are reviewing the utilization of these specially-designed Community Cyber Points and are working with associations of the blind and the visually impaired to examine the further promotion of such services in 2001-02. Moreover, we have already provided special computer facilities designed for use by the blind and the visually impaired at 24 public libraries.
- (B) After examining the situation with associations of the blind and the visually impaired, we consider that Community Cyber Points with special computer facilities should be established at places where the blind and the visually impaired usually frequent, such as their social centres and schools, for the sake of their convenience. If we establish such facilities at community centres/halls in various districts but these are not places where the blind and the visually impaired usually visit, then the purpose of facilitating their use will not be served. Apart from this, special arrangements have been made in regard to the design of Community Cyber Points to enable other disabled persons (such as wheelchair users) to use computer facilities.

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Secretary for Information Technology
Post title : and Broadcasting
Date : 24 March 2001