

Diamond Hill Squatter Area

(7.11.2000)

(A) Domestic Clearerees

- Refused Offers : 457 households
 - (Eligible for Public Rental Housing (PRH) : 36 households
 - Eligible for Interim Housing (IH) : 421 households)
- Of the 421 IH eligible households, it is expected that 110 households would be rehoused to PRH through the General Waiting List under the Anticipatory Housing Scheme. A special team has been set up to handle these cases.
- The remaining 310 IH eligible households would be rehoused to IH in Kwai Chung and Tuen Mun. (About 160 IH eligible households of family size of 1, 4, 5, and 7 to 9 persons would be rehoused to Tuen Mun)
- The Housing Department has arranged IH offers to these 310 IH eligible households since early this year. The number of offers are as follows :
 - (Refused 1st offer : about 30 households
 - 2nd offer : about 180 households
 - 3rd offer : about 100 households)
- The Housing Department will keep on persuading the IH eligible households to accept rehousing offers.

(B) Business Undertakings

- Of the 174 business operators affected, 128 business operators are eligible for payment of Ex-gratia Allowance (EGA) and 46 business are ineligible (details at Annex).
- The EGA rates for shops and workshops are linked with the average rental of shops and flatted factories in the private sector, the basis of which was approved by the LegCo's Finance Committee in 1988. Secretary for the Treasury reviews the rates annually in accordance with the approved basis under delegated authority.
- The payment of EGA aims to assist business operators to re-establish their business elsewhere. Operators of shops and workshops in squatter areas do not have titles to the land and the payment of EGA is not for compensating their investment or losses. The basis of calculation is applicable to all shops and workshops on Government land. In past clearances, the same basis of calculation was used.
- The Housing Department has invited the eligible business operators to collect their cheques and some have already done so.
- The Housing Department has reviewed all the 46 ineligible cases. One of them has provided fresh evidence for further consideration. The Housing Department will also review the other cases if fresh evidence is provided.