

SBCR 57/581/76

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By Fax (2877 8024) & By Post

Mrs Sharon TONG
Clerk to LegCo Panel on Security
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs TONG,

Meeting of LegCo Panel on Security on 18 January 2001
Crime Statistics in 2000

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Security held on 18 January 2001, during the discussion on the subject of "Crime Statistics in 2000", Members requested the Administration to provide the following additional information –

- (a) number of cases in respect of drug seizures;
- (b) number of cases where victims lost control due to the effect of drugs; and
- (c) number of occasions on which prosecutions were instituted under the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO).

The requested information are provided below for Members' information.

Number of cases in respect of drug seizures

A total of 9,583 cases of drug seizures were made in 2000. This represents an increase of 22.8% when compared with the 7,806 cases of seizures made in 1999. A breakdown of the quantities of the most common types of drugs seized in 1999 and 2000 is as listed below –

| <i>Types of Drugs</i> | <i>1999</i> | <i>2000 (provisional figures #)</i> | <i>Change (%)</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Heroin | 287.5 kgs | 404.92 kgs | +40.8% |
| MDMA (Ecstasy) | 21,202 tablets | 388,414 tablets | +1,732.0% |
| Cannabis | | | |
| • Herbal | 26.3 kgs | 247.73 kgs | +841.9% |
| • Resin | 14.4 kgs | 10.28 kgs | -28.6% |
| Methamphetamine ("ice") | 102.1 kgs (& 1,111 tablets) | 93.62 kgs (& 6,949 tablets & 25,644.8 ml) | -8.3% +525.5% N/A |
| Ketamine | 2 kgs | 25.51 kgs | +1,175.5% |

pending confirmation from the Government Laboratory

Number of cases where victims lost control due to the effect of drugs

The Police do not maintain separate statistics regarding the number of cases where the victims lost control due to the effect of drugs.

Number of occasions on which prosecutions were instituted under OSCO

Following the enactment of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO) in 1994, the Police powers to combat and investigate organised and serious crimes such as money laundering, power to confiscate and enhance sentencing have been strengthened. The table below provides a breakdown of the frequency of use of the powers provided under OSCO and the prosecutions instituted in 1999 and 2000 –

| <i>Powers used under OSCO</i> | <i>1999</i> | <i>2000</i> |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Witness orders obtained (s.3) | 1 | 18 |
| Production orders obtained (s.4) | 50 | 236 |
| Search warrants obtained (s.5) | 3 | 7 |
| Restraint warrants obtained (s.6) | 7 | 8 |
| Confiscation orders obtained (s.8) | 2 | 2 |
| Money laundering prosecutions (s.25) | 14 | 15 |
| Enhanced sentencing applications (s.27) | 7 | 15 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>84</i> | <i>301</i> |
| Amount confiscated | \$136,044.16 | \$782,243.04 |
| Amount currently restrained | N/A | \$95 million |

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Angela LEE)
for Secretary for Security