

**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03**

[Bureau Secretary/Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Security]

[Session No. : 6]

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S-SB003	Q2(Oral)	Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong	122	Prevention and Detection of Crime
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB001

Question Serial No.

S024

Head: 151 Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

122 Hong Kong Police Force

Programme: (1) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Security

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

The Police Force has commissioned a consultancy study to assist the Department in designing and organizing Forcewide culture change programmes. A total of \$500,000 has been spent in 2001-02 while \$1m has been earmarked for 2002-03. Please provide details of the areas and items under the study for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

In 2001-02, the consultancy study commissioned by the Police Force has looked into the following areas providing expertise, advice and support to the Force:

Items	Objectives
Force management	To conduct environmental studies, and to assess and consolidate matters that have impact on the Strategic Directions with a view to setting future operations and management priorities.
Performance assessment	To formulate, implement and follow up key performance yardsticks; to put into practice the Vision and Mission of the Force; and to improve performance review in order to monitor the standard of service and to strive for excellence.
Division management	To analyse the work of divisions, to formulate a mechanism for planning and target setting, to enhance programme management, and to provide guidelines and directions on operations and priority management.
Internal communications	To formulate and implement an action plan for the Force strategy on internal communication Force-wide to facilitate promotion and improvement of service culture, attitude to work and application of technology for effective internal communication.

The above advising and supporting services provided by the consultant in 2001-02 will continue in 2002-03. Attention will be focused on the consolidation of the operational and management priorities for the Force, programme management of divisional actions, the review of performance and promotion of the most effective operational methods.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Regina Ip

Post Title

Secretary for Security

Date

4.4.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB002

Question Serial No.

Q1
(Oral)

Head: 122 - Hong Kong Police Force

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

Please give a breakdown of people arrested for "quick cash" crimes in the past 12 months. How many of these were unemployed people and to what percentage did they account for?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

"Quick Cash" Crimes	Persons Arrested in Total^①	No. of Unemployed Arrested^②	Percentage (^②/^①) x 100%
Robbery	1 378	479	34.8%
Burglary	878	313	35.6%
Snatching	216	101	46.8%
Pickpocketing	398	148	37.2%
Shop Theft	7 447	2 159	29.0%
Theft from Vehicle	451	179	39.7%
Theft from Construction Site	168	55	32.7%
Miscellaneous Thefts	4 878	1 487	30.5%
Total	15 814	4 921	31.1%

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB003

Question Serial No.

Q2
(Oral)

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

Please state the numbers and percentages of arson cases listed as serious crimes in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Year	Total No. of Arson Cases^①	Cases resulted in Serious Injury or Death^②	Percentage (②/①) x 100%
1999	738	5	0.7%
2000	779	2	0.3%
2001	674	5	0.7%

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB004

Question Serial No.

Q3
(Oral)

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force

Programme: 12202 - Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

Please list the numbers of first-time juvenile delinquents and repeated juvenile delinquents arrested for violent crimes in 2001.

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Number of juveniles (aged 7-15) arrested for violent crimes in 2001 are as follows :-

Violent Crimes Against Person	No. of First-time Offenders	No. of Repeated Offenders	No. of Persons Arrested
1 Rape	1	1	2
2 Indecent Assault	64	21	85
3 Murder & Manslaughter	2	0	2
4 Attempted Murder	0	0	0
5 Wounding	66	43	109
6 Serious Assault	423	203	626
7 Assault on Police	2	1	3
8 Kidnapping & Child Stealing	0	0	0
9 Cruelty to Child	0	0	0
10 Criminal Intimidation	22	12	34
Subtotal (1 - 10)	580	281	861
Violent Crimes Against Property			
11 Robbery with Firearms/Arms	0	0	0
12 Robbery with Pistol Like Object	0	0	0
13 Other Robberies	321	261	582
14 Aggravated Burglary	1	0	1
15 Blackmail	69	37	106
16 Arson	16	9	25
Subtotal (11 - 16)	407	307	714
Total For Violent Crimes (1 – 16)	987	588	1 575

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB005

Question Serial No.

Q4
(Oral)

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force

Programme: 12201 – Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

Eight police officers were promoted in 2000 and four in 2001 after the Independent Police Complaints Council reviewed and found that complaints against them were substantiated. Please separate out the police officers concerned according to rank (inspector or above and junior police officers). Also, please give the number of police officers who were disciplined after the complaints against them were found substantiated.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

One chief inspector and seven junior police officers were promoted in 2000 after the Independent Police Complaints Council reviewed and found that complaints against them were substantiated. Among them, one of the junior police officers was recommended for promotion in 1998-99. However, as the case against him had yet to be concluded, his promotion was put on hold. His case was concluded in 2000 and he was awarded the punishment of 'reprimand' as a result of the disciplinary proceedings instituted against him. According to the Police General Orders, those police officers awarded the punishment of 'reprimand' normally will not be promoted within 12 months. Since this police officer's promotion had already been put on hold for two years because of his case, he was subsequently promoted in accordance with the principle of fairness. For the other officers, they had been given verbal or written advice. Verbal advice or written advice is not disciplinary punishments that affect promotion. Under the principle of fairness, such punishments do not bar the officers concerned from being promoted.

Four junior police officers were promoted in 2001 after the Independent Police Complaints Council reviewed and found that complaints against them were substantiated. Verbal or written advice was given to these four junior police officers.

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date

4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB006

Question Serial No.

Q5
(Oral)

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force

Programme: 12201 – Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

The Public Opinion Survey 2001 shows that 50% of the members of the public felt safe under the state of law and order at night time. Please provide statistics of similar surveys in other countries for comparison.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

As I have told in the Special Finance Committee Meetings, many cities have not conducted similar surveys. For those who have, they had target population and objectives different from ours and so the design of questions and the methodology employed were different. Because of the time constraint, we can only locate four such surveys. Two of them did not distinguish between the law and order situation at daytime and night time and as a result it is difficult to make comparison. The figures for the other two surveys are:

Comparison with other cities on how safe people felt about the law and order situation		
City	Felt safe at night time	Felt safe at daytime
Hong Kong	50% (urban area)	84% (urban area)
San Jose, California, US	34% (urban area)	62% (urban area)
North of Hertfordshire, UK	57% (rural area)	94% (rural area)

A considerable number of respondents in Hong Kong felt safe at night time.

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB007

Question Serial No.

S010

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force

Programme: 12201 – Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

Please state the current population, Police Force establishment and strength of the divisions under Hong Kong Island Region, Kowloon East Region, Kowloon West Region, New Territories North Region and New Territories South Region. Please also give the proposed establishment for 2002-03, especially a breakdown of uniformed police officers and crime officers.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The figures for the estimated population of each of the above Police Districts and the Police Force establishment and strength by Police District for 2002, and the projected establishment for 2002-03 with a breakdown of uniformed police officers and crime officers are attached.

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Establishment and Strength of Disciplined Staff By District

Region/District	2002 Estimated Population	Current Situation (1.3.2002)				Projected Establishment	
		Establishment		Strength		2002-03	
		Uniform Branch	Crime	Uniform Branch	Crime	Uniform Branch	Crime
Hong Kong Island Region							
Central District	104 149	649	98	657	101	649	98
<i>Eastern District</i>	615 593	608	145	602	141	610	137
<i>Wanchai District</i>	163 721	510	119	531	132	506	119
<i>Western District</i>	422 537	605	113	625	112	602	113
<i>Hong Kong Island Regional HQs</i>	-	914	224	964	227	911	224
Sub-Total:	1 306 000	3 286	699	3 379	713	3 278	691
Kowloon East Region							
Kwun Tong District	593 837	504	129	500	135	532	136
<i>Mass Transit Railway District</i>	-	288	-	288	-	304	-
<i>Sau Mau Ping District</i>	329 709	482	147	476	146	480	147
<i>Wong Tai Sin District</i>	519 799	698	145	694	144	689	145
<i>Kowloon East Regional HQs</i>	-	750	169	859	160	756	169
Sub-Total:	1 443 345	2 722	590	2 817	585	2 761	597
Kowloon West Region							
Kowloon City District	368 281	676	143	682	144	672	143
<i>Mongkok District</i>	170 146	443	158	461	155	448	158
<i>Shamshuipo District</i>	391 236	700	188	706	191	697	188
<i>Yau Tsim District</i>	125 869	727	211	761	207	739	211
<i>Kowloon West Regional HQs</i>	-	1 049	307	1 119	327	1 067	307
Sub-Total:	1 055 532	3 595	1 007	3 729	1 024	3 623	1 007
New Territories North Region							
Border District	35 140	1 098	46	997	46	1 086	46
<i>Tai Po District</i>	571 960	508	148	552	151	546	148
<i>Tuen Mun District</i>	542 200	553	148	507	144	545	148
<i>Yuen Long District</i>	504 300	571	173	585	170	593	173
<i>New Territories North Regional HQs</i>	-	1 038	208	1 113	209	1 106	208
Sub-Total:	1 653 600	3 768	723	3 754	720	3 876	723
New Territories South Region							
Airport District	-	345	32	332	31	345	32
<i>Kwai Tsing District</i>	405 448	503	110	533	112	507	110
<i>Lantau District</i>	84 500	249	44	270	44	249	44
<i>Sha Tin District</i>	657 777	706	162	743	161	734	134
<i>Tsuen Wan District</i>	363 028	611	159	655	158	608	157
<i>New Territories South Regional HQs</i>	-	849	204	938	204	845	207
Sub-Total:	1 510 753	3 263	711	3 471	710	3 288	684
Total	6 969 230	20 364		20 902		20 528	

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB008

Question Serial No.

S019

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force Subhead(No. & title): 103 – Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 – Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

Please give the allocation of funds under this subhead for 2000-01 and 2001-02 in the form of the following table :-

	Combating Serious Crimes	Combating Narcotics Offences	Other Security Purposes	Total
Payments to institutions overseas for providing information useful to investigation				
Payments to people overseas for providing information useful to investigation				
Payments to local institutions for providing information useful to investigation				
Payments to local people for providing information useful to investigation				
Payments for police rewards offered for information useful to detection				
Sundries				
Total				

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

I would like to reiterate that disclosing the details of the allocation of funds under this sub-head would compromise confidential police operations and this is neither appropriate nor in the interest of the public. Therefore, relevant particulars will not be provided.

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB009

Question Serial No.

S020

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force Subhead(No. & title): 103 – Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 – Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

Under this subhead, in 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02, the actual and estimated numbers of payments and expenditure made in respect of rewards increased year after year. The number of payments rose from 1 038 in 1999-2000 to 1 200 (estimated) in 2001-02 while the expenditure rose from more than \$61m in 1999-2000 to \$95m (estimated) in 2001-02. What accounts for the year-on-year increase in the numbers of payments and expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

In 2001-02, the number of payments made in respect of rewards was around 1 200 and the expenditure involved around \$95m, both estimates. As at 28 March 2002, the actual expenditure was \$61.43m. For operational and security reasons, I am unable to comment on the numbers of payments in respect of rewards and special services and on the increase or decrease in the expenditure involved.

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB010

Question Serial No.

S021

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force Subhead(No. & title): 103 – Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 – Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

Please list the expenditure under this subhead under the headings : combating serious crimes, narcotics offences and security in 1999–2000, 2000–01 and 2001–02.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

I would like to reiterate that disclosing this information would compromise confidential police operations and this is neither appropriate nor in the interest of the public. Therefore, relevant particulars will not be provided.

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB011

Question Serial No.

S022

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force Subhead(No. & title): 103 – Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 – Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the actual and estimated expenditure on Police reward offers which were publicly announced in 1999–2000, 2000–01 and 2001–02?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The numbers of Police reward offers which were publicly announced in 1999–2000, 2000–01 and 2001–02 were 39, 33 and 32 respectively. The corresponding total offers were \$8.15m, \$7.5m and \$12.5m. For the past three years, rewards were paid for two cases in total. For security and operational reasons, I am unable to provide details on the expenditure on Police reward offers, the same with informer's fee.

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB012

Question Serial No.

S023

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force Subhead(No. & title): 103 – Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 – Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

Would the Administration please tell the public :-

How many people have been paid informer's fees? How many people have been paid Police reward offers? The amount of Police reward offers paid? How come this will enable the suspects to elude justice?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Expenses paid under the Subhead of Rewards and Special Services involved police operations of confidential nature, including the investigation of serious crimes, narcotics offences and security matters. Disclosing such expenses will reveal detailed operational arrangements of the Police Force and its capabilities to the criminals, who may elude justice, thus jeopardizing public interests.

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-SB013

Question Serial No.

S025

Head: 122 – Hong Kong Police Force Subhead(No. & title): 103 – Rewards and special services

Programme: 12204 – Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the implications to the Force in terms of operation and security if the overall expenses and statistics on intercepting communications operations are made known to the public?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

For operational and security reasons, I am not able to comment on the work relating to intercepting communications.

Name in block letters TSANG Yam-pui

Post Title Commissioner of Police

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

S-SB014

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Oral

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

With reference to paragraph (a) of reply to FC Question No. 0463, what were the numbers of employers arrested for employing illegally foreign domestic helpers during the corresponding periods?

Asked by : Hon. Audrey EU

Reply :

The number of employers arrested for employing foreign domestic helpers illegally stood at 209 in 2000 and 259 in 2001. In 2002 (January – February), the number is 38.

The number of employers arrested in 2001 is greater than the number of foreign domestic helpers arrested because in some cases:

- (a) the illegal deployment of foreign domestic helpers amongst non-contractual parties involved more than one employer;
- (b) the interception of foreign domestic helpers engaged in illegal employment led to further investigations into the helpers' previous illegal employment in some other workplaces and thence more than one employer was involved; and
- (c) the employment process of foreign domestic helpers in some business establishments involved more than one person.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **Ambrose S K LEE**

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

S-SB 015

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

S007

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

With reference to Reply Serial No. SB063 (Question Serial No. 0673), of those who were refused entry in 2000-01 and 2001-02, what were the respective numbers of males and females? Of those who were refused entry owing to "genuineness of visit in doubt", how many were Mainlanders and what was the sex distribution?

Asked by : Hon. WU King-cheong, Henry

Reply :

We do not keep further breakdowns by sex of persons who were refused entry.

Of the total 10 742 and 10 234 persons who were refused entry in 2000-01 and 2001-02 (up to end of February) respectively on grounds of genuineness of visit in doubt, 7 920 and 5 355 were Mainland visitors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **Ambrose S K LEE**

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

S-SB 016

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

S026

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Please give a breakdown by place of origin of the two categories of persons, namely passengers and seamen, who were refused entry in 2000 and 2001 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

The breakdowns by passengers and seamen who were refused entry in 2000 and 2001 are as follows -

Year	Passengers refused entry	Seamen refused entry	Total
2000	17 679	3 112	20 791
2001	19 489	1 797	21 286

We do not keep further breakdowns by the place of origin of the passengers and seamen who were refused entry.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **Ambrose S K LEE**

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date

4 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

S-SB 017

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

S027

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Over the past 2 years, the number of persons who were refused entry each year stood at some 20 000, of which nearly 50% were refused entry because of “genuineness of visit in doubt”. Please give a detailed breakdown by purposes of visit in doubt, such as noninvolvement in business activities or business negotiations, nonattendance in academic forums, conferences or seminars, etc.

Asked by : Hon. To Kun-sun, James

Reply :

Each and every refused entry case has a specific reason for refusal. For statistical purposes, we only categorise the reasons for refusal broadly under “Genuineness of visit in doubt”, “Improperly documented” and “Use of forged travel document”.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **Ambrose S K LEE**

Post Title **Director of Immigration**

Date **4 April 2002**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

S-SB018

Head : 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Pre-entry control

S028

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

This is a follow-up question to reply serial number SB050. According to Immigration Department officers, the number of COE cases processed in a particular year depends on the number of cases carried forward from the previous year. Please provide figures of the following and explain the basis for estimating that there will be nearly 17 000 new applications in 2002.

- (a) Of the 28 186 cases processed in 2000, how many were carried forward from the previous year?
- (b) Of the 21 704 cases processed in 2001, how many were carried forward from the previous year?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

The number of applications for Certificates of Entitlement carried forward from 1999 to 2000 is 23 191 and the number of applications carried forward from 2000 to 2001 is 10 906.

It was estimated that about 17 000 new applications would be received in 2002. The figure was based on the number of new applications received in 2001, plus a certain percentage increase arising from those requiring DNA test.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **Ambrose S K LEE**

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 4 April 2002

Reply Serial No.

S-SB019

Question Serial No.

S003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) HKSAR Immigration-related Matters

Controlling Officer : Director, Beijing Office

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question(s) :

- (a) The Director, Mr. Bowen Leung, mentioned that a fund had already been set up by the Beijing Office to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. When was the fund set up, how much money did the fund have at the outset and how much of the fund is still available for use?
- (b) How many times has the fund been used to help Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland and how much money was allocated in each case? Please provide a breakdown of fund usage by the types of assistance provided.
- (c) What are the eligibility criteria and application procedures of the fund? How long does it take to approve an application?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

- (a) To offer assistance to Hong Kong residents who are in distress in the Mainland, the Beijing Office set up an advance account (i.e. the 'fund' raised in the question) in March 2001. The prime purpose of the account is to provide recoverable

emergency financial assistance to Hong Kong residents who are in distress in the Mainland but are unable to seek any assistance from friends or relatives so that basic and necessary payments can be met. The amount reserved was RMB¥13,000 at the time the advance account was set up, but will be adjusted when necessary.

(b) We announced the setting-up of the advance account on 31 March 2001. As at the end of December 2001, no request for assistance that requires provision from the advance account has been received.

(c) The eligibility criteria and application procedures of the fund as well as the time required for the approval of applications are as follows:

(1) Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an advance, the assistance-seeker must be a Hong Kong resident who has exhausted all possible means but fails to obtain financial assistance from his relatives or friends in Hong Kong. The assistance-seeker is required to sign an undertaking to the effect that he will return to Hong Kong once the matter is settled and will repay the full amount of the advance upon his return to Hong Kong.

(2) Application Procedures

When the assistance-seeker applies for an advance, the Office will verify his eligibility, identity and repayment ability. If the application is approved, the Office will also explain to him the terms and requirements of the advance. After the undertaking of repayment is signed, the necessary advance will be issued by the Office.

(3) Approval Time

The Office will endeavour to process the applications as soon as possible subject to the circumstances of individual cases.

Signature	Signed on Chinese version
Name in block letters	Bowen LEUNG
Post Title	Director, Beijing Office
Date	28.3.2002

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

Reply Serial No.

S-SB020

Question Serial No.

S008

Head: 168 Hong Kong Observatory

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Radiation Monitoring and Assessment

Controlling Officer: Director of the Hong Kong Observatory

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question : What are the details of the funding arrangement and the plan regarding the production of a public educational video programme and a web page by the Hong Kong Observatory in 2002/03 on the emergency preparedness of Hong Kong in the event of a nuclear accident?

Asked by: Hon. WU King-cheong, Henry

Reply:

The Hong Kong Observatory will produce a video and a webpage to promote public awareness and understanding of the "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Daya Bay Contingency Plan" in 2002. Production of the video and the webpage is estimated to cost around HK\$300,000 each. Funds will be made available through deployment of existing resources of the Security Bureau.

The video and webpage will cover the concept of nuclear emergency planning, radiation monitoring and assessment activities in Hong Kong, and the contingency plan during nuclear emergencies including Government's measures, information dissemination arrangements and advice to the public. After launch, the webpage can be accessed by the public at any time through the Internet and will be updated as required. The video will be distributed to schools and the general public via the Education Department and the Home Affairs Department. It will also contribute to the contents of the webpage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.Y. LAM

Post Title _____ Ag Director of the Hong Kong Observatory

Date

4.4.2002
