

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in  
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Economic Development and Labour**

**Session No. : 9**

**File name : EDLB(L)-e1.doc**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)001**

Question Serial No.

0068

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Provision for 2006-07 is \$2.6 million higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. What is the increased expenditure for filling of existing vacancies and salary increments for staff respectively? Please provide details on the vacancies and the contractual nature of staff (e.g. non-civil servant contract or permanent establishment).

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The increased provisions for filling vacancies and salary increments are \$1.3 million and \$0.9 million respectively. The vacancies involved are under the permanent establishment of the Clerical Officer grade.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)002**

Question Serial No.

0069

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What was the Labour Department's expenditure on handling minor employment claims for adjudication in 2005? What is the estimated expenditure involved in 2006?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The estimated expenditure on handling minor employment claims for adjudication in 2005-06 is \$10.5 million. We expect the expenditure in 2006-07 to be broadly comparable to that of 2005-06.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)003**

Question Serial No.

0070

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

In 2005, what was the Labour Department's expenditure on processing registration of new trade unions and the administration of trade unions? What is the estimated expenditure involved in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The main functions of the Registry of Trade Unions include registration of new trade unions, scrutiny and registration of trade union rules, inspection of trade unions and examination of their annual audited statements of accounts, and organisation of training courses for trade union officers and members. The total expenditure of the Registry in 2005-06 was about \$4.7 million. The estimated expenditure for 2006-07 is \$4.9 million.

We do not have separate breakdown on the expenditure for registration of new trade unions and administration of trade union activities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)004**

Question Serial No.

0081

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

In 2004 and 2005, the actual numbers of inspections per field inspector under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance were higher than the target. Will the Administration plan to increase the number of field inspectors in 2006-07? If yes, what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

We have no plan to increase the establishment of the Occupational Safety Officer grade in 2006-07.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)005**

Question Serial No.

0082

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

The target number of talks, lectures, and seminars on safety and health at work to be organised will be revised downwards from 2 559 (actual) in 2005 to 2 100 (plan) in 2006. How much savings are expected to be achieved?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The target number of talks, lectures and seminars will be revised downwards in 2006 because the Labour Department will focus its resources on organising large-scale seminars instead of outreaching talks. The target number of talks, lectures and seminars is only a planning target, not a ceiling on the number of such activities to be conducted. The department will conduct more talks, lectures and seminars if there is an increase in demand. We will re-deploy our staff to other occupational safety and health related duties and no savings are, therefore, expected to be achieved as a whole.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)006**

Question Serial No.

0083

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

For matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, the Labour Department plans to set up a new occupational health clinic in North District. When is it expected to commence operation? What is the estimated number of service recipients each year? What is the cost involved in construction and operation?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The new occupational health clinic in North District will commence operation in the second half of 2006. The clinic is expected to provide 4 800 clinical consultations a year. The total setting-up cost is estimated to be \$3.1 million and the annual operational cost \$3.2 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)007**

Question Serial No.

0084

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

What was the number of enforcement operations against wage offences in 2005? What was the cost involved? What are the expected number of operations and the estimated expenditure involved in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

In 2005, labour inspectors of the Labour Department conducted 12 449 workplace inspections to combat wage offences. In 2006, more efforts will be devoted to intelligence collection and analysis and launching of targeted operations. The number of workplace inspections to detect wage offences will depend on our enforcement strategies on targeted operations and intelligence gauged from employees and trade unions.

As labour inspectors also enforce other statutory benefit provisions, we do not have a separate breakdown of the cost and estimated expenditure on combating wage offences for 2005 and 2006-07.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)008**

Question Serial No.

0085

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

How many joint operations were conducted by the Labour Department and the Police to combat illegal employment in 2005? What was the cost involved? What are the expected number of joint operations and the estimated expenditure involved in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

In 2005, labour inspectors of the Labour Department mounted 172 operations with the Police to combat illegal employment. The number of joint operations to be conducted in 2006-07 will depend on the mode of surveillance, intelligence collection and enforcement strategies.

As labour inspectors also enforce various pieces of labour legislation, we do not have a separate breakdown of the cost and estimated expenditure on combating illegal employment for 2005 and 2006-07.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

**Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07**  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO**  
**INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)009**

Question Serial No.

0086

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employees' Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

In 2005, the Government introduced some measures to protect non-skilled workers employed by contractors to provide service to government departments so that they are entitled to the statutory rights and benefits under labour laws. What are the details of the measures and the expenditure involved? What are the measures planned to be taken and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The Government introduced the following measures to protect the rights and benefits under labour laws in respect of non-skilled workers employed by government service contractors in 2005-

- (i) A standard written employment contract (SEC) setting out more clearly the employment conditions (including the monthly wage rate, working hours and wage payment method) and entitlements under labour laws has been put in place since April 2005.
- (ii) To tie in with the implementation of the SEC, the Labour Department (LD) has enhanced inspections to the workplaces of government service contractors to ensure contractors' compliance with the provisions of the Employment Ordinance (EO). The number of inspections rose from 604 in 2004 to 786 in 2005, an increase of 30%.
- (iii) The LD has also stepped up prosecutions against government service contractors. In 2005, we prosecuted 11 government service contractors resulting in 73 convicted summonses under labour laws. This far exceeded the total of 3 contractors with 4 convicted summonses in 2004.
- (iv) The procuring departments have also strengthened monitoring of their service contractors to ensure compliance with the terms of SEC and service contracts. If non-compliance with the provisions of the EO is detected, they will refer the case to the LD for investigation. The number of referrals received by the LD increased from 73 in 2004 to 93 in 2005.

In 2006-07, the LD will continue its efforts in safeguarding the rights and benefits of non-skilled workers employed by government service contractors through conducting inspections and investigation of complaints. We will also strengthen our cooperation with the major procuring departments in tackling the malpractices of government service contractors.

As labour inspectors of the LD enforce various pieces of labour legislation in all economic sectors, we do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure in respect of the measures we have taken in this regard.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

**MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date \_\_\_\_\_

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)010**

Question Serial No.

0087

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

In 2005, the Labour Department stepped up its liaison with non-governmental organisations for foreign domestic helpers and the consulates of the major exporting countries. What were the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The Government is committed to safeguarding the rights and benefits of foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) in Hong Kong. To this end, we have fostered closer collaboration and co-operation with FDH groups and non-government organisations (NGOs) on all fronts.

A roundtable meeting chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) was held in September 2005 and representatives from 25 FDH unions and NGOs were present. Matters of mutual concern were discussed. The Labour Department (LD) also meets with the FDH groups from time to time, most recently in February 2006.

With the assistance of FDH NGOs, the LD together with the Immigration Department (ImmD) organised two information expos for FDHs in October 2005. Information on employment rights and benefits was displayed and distributed, a publicity video was screened and officers of the two departments were present to handle enquiries. Over 11 000 visitors attended the expos. The expenditure of these events was about \$110,000.

Furthermore, we have built up close liaison with the Philippine and Indonesian Consulates. With their assistance, a delegation comprising representatives from the LD and ImmD visited Indonesia and the Philippines, the two major FDH-exporting countries, in September and October 2005 respectively to organise pre-departure workshops for prospective FDHs and to brief them on employment and immigration matters. Presentation materials for the workshops had been passed to the relevant authorities for dissemination at similar events in future. The expenditure of the visits was about \$30,000.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
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Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)011**

Question Serial No.

0088

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What are the details of the work programme for disseminating messages to foreign domestic helpers on their labour rights and benefits in 2006-07? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

To ensure that foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) are aware of their rights and benefits, we will continue to publicise key messages in this area through various channels. Details of the work programme in 2006-07 include:

- (a) publishing a new leaflet in Chinese, English, Tagalog, Indonesian and Thai to help FDHs and their employers better understand the key provisions of the Employment Ordinance;
- (b) producing a guidebook in the above five languages to provide practical guidance for reference by FDHs;
- (c) screening publicity videos and producing souvenirs bearing important messages concerning their rights and benefits for distribution to FDHs;
- (d) disseminating key messages through radio programmes with FDHs as the target audience;
- (e) delivering talks to FDHs on their rest days; and
- (f) producing display materials in different languages highlighting the rights and benefits of FDHs and distributing them free of charge to migrant worker associations and non-government organisations to facilitate them to stage mini-exhibitions on the rights and benefits of FDHs.

The estimated costs for (a) to (c) above will be about \$750,000. The other activities will be conducted by the Workplace Consultation Promotion Division of the Labour Department as part of its ongoing task. There is no separate breakdown on the financial provisions.



Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

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Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)012**

Question Serial No.

0205

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

Regarding the incentive allowance scheme launched by the Labour Department in collaboration with the Employees Retraining Board, what was the number of applications made by qualified local domestic helpers who are willing to work across districts or during unpopular hours in 2005? As at the end of 2005, what was the expenditure for the 6 156 successful applications?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

As at the end of 2005, 6 156 local domestic helpers (LDHs) successfully applied for an allowance under the Special Incentive Allowance Scheme for LDHs. Among them, 2 798 applied for an allowance for working across districts and 3 358 for working during unsocial hours. Each eligible LDH could apply for a maximum amount of \$7,200 within the claim period of two years. A sum of \$44,323,200 has been earmarked for these 6 156 LDHs. Of this, \$24,015,400 was disbursed as at the end of 2005.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)013**

Question Serial No.

0206

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

The Labour Department plans to relax the scheme rules for the Incentive Allowance Scheme for Local Domestic Helpers in 2006-07. What are the details and the estimated cost involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

A sum of \$60 million has been earmarked for the Special Incentive Allowance Scheme for Local Domestic Helpers (LDHs) to benefit 8 000 LDHs. In December 2005, we extended the “unsocial hours” to cover the entire Saturday and Sunday. We also extended the claim period of all eligible LDH claimants from one year to two. No additional funding would be incurred as the maximum amount of allowance (\$7,200) available to each eligible LDH remains unchanged.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)014**

Question Serial No.

0207

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

The Labour Department organized 11 large-scale job fairs in Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun, Sheung Shui, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi in 2005. What was the total expenditure? In 2006, the Department plans to mount 13 major and 50 district-based job fairs. Where and for whom will these job fairs be held? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The total expenditure for staging the 11 job fairs in 2005 was \$751,000.

The estimated expenditure for staging the 13 large-scale job fairs in 2006 is \$950,000. They are open to all job-seekers and will be held at various locations including remote areas in the New Territories.

As for the 50 district-based job fairs planned for 2006, they are also open to all job-seekers and will be held at our larger job centres located at Wan Chai, Sham Shui Po, Tsuen Wan, Tai Po and Tuen Mun districts. The required expenditure for staging these job fairs will be absorbed within the operating expenses of these job centres.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)015**

Question Serial No.

0208

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What were the details of the employment services provided by the Labour Department for disabled job-seekers in 2005? What was the expenditure involved? What are the details of the employment services to be provided for them in 2006? What will be the cost involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The Selective Placement Division (SPD) of the Labour Department provides a personalised employment service to people with disabilities with an objective of placing them into open employment. In 2005, the SPD registered 3 920 disabled job-seekers and achieved 2 459 job placements. To promote the employment opportunities of the disabled, the SPD launched the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme in the same year and continued with its promotional programmes including award-presentation ceremonies, television/radio programmes, newspaper/bus advertisements, seminars and exhibitions.

In 2006, we shall continue to provide employment service to disabled job-seekers and strengthen our publicity efforts.

For 2005-06, the estimated expenditure on the provision of employment services to disabled job-seekers is \$18.5 million. The estimated expenditure for 2006-07 is \$20.8 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)016**

Question Serial No.

1473

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What are the details of and the expenditure for the creation of 14 permanent posts in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

To set up a job centre each in Yuen Long and North District, the Labour Department will create 17 permanent posts comprising 2 Labour Officers, 1 Assistant Labour Officer I, 4 Clerical Officers, 8 Assistant Clerical Officers and 2 Clerical Assistants in 2006-07. Taking into account the deletion of 3 permanent posts, there will be a net creation of 14 permanent posts in 2006-07 with a provision of about \$2 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)017**

Question Serial No.

0116

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

In 2005, 11 large-scale job fairs were organised for job-seekers living in remote areas. What was the expenditure for each fair? What was the number of placements secured?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The average expenditure for each job fair was \$68,000. A total of 1 568 on-the-spot placements were recorded. As most participating companies continued to interview job-seekers after the job fairs, the gross placement figure would be higher.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)018**

Question Serial No.

0117

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

On matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, please provide the following information:

- (a) the courses available for trainees under the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme after they have been allowed to take up more vocational training courses.
- (b) the cost of relaxing the scheme rules for the Incentive Allowance Scheme (IAS) for Local Domestic Helpers.
- (c) the duration of relaxation of the above scheme rules for the IAS.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (a) Trainees may choose from 186 training courses on computer application and over 300 training courses on job-specific skills in the following 18 job categories:
1. Customer Service and Salesmanship
  2. Clerical Work
  3. Logistics and Warehouse Management
  4. Information Technology
  5. Hairdressing
  6. Beauty Culture and Stylist
  7. Entrepreneurship
  8. Programme Assistant and Tutor
  9. Tourism
  10. Hotel
  11. Catering
  12. Textile and Clothing
  13. Technical Training
  14. Security Guard and Property Management
  15. Construction
  16. Video Production, Advertising and Photography Skills
  17. Performing Arts
  18. Others such as Health Care, Design and Child Work

(b) & (c) A sum of \$60 million has been earmarked for the Special Incentive Allowance Scheme for Local



Domestic Helpers (LDHs) to benefit 8 000 LDHs. In December 2005, we extended the “unsocial hours” to cover the entire Saturday and Sunday. We also extended the claim period of all eligible LDH claimants from one year to two. No additional funding would be incurred as the maximum amount of allowance (\$7,200) available to each eligible LDH remains unchanged.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)019**

Question Serial No.

1957

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

The Labour Department organised 11 large-scale job fairs (including four targeted at youths) in Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun, Sheung Shui, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi in 2005. In this regard, please provide the following information:

- (a) a breakdown of job vacancies, by industry, occupation and monthly salary, provided in the job fairs;
- (b) a breakdown of placements, by industry, occupation and monthly salary, secured through the job fairs; and
- (c) whether the Labour Department has assessed the effectiveness of these activities. If yes, please provide the details. If no, please give the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (a) Altogether 11 821 vacancies were received from employers participating in the 11 job fairs. The breakdown of the vacancies by industry, occupation and monthly salary is as follows :

Breakdown by industry

Industry	Number of Vacancies Received
Catering	2,974
Retail	2,529
Real Estate	1,754
Personal/Business Services	1,623
Communication	553
Manufacturing	519
Import & Export Trades	468
Others	1,401
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,821</b>

Breakdown by occupation

Occupation	Number of Vacancies Received
Shop Sales Workers	4,313
Service Workers	3,603
Clerks	1,083
Managers & Administrators	472
Professionals	373
Others	1,977
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,821</b>

Breakdown by monthly salary

Monthly Salary	Number of Vacancies Received
Below \$5,000	2,068
\$5,000 - \$7,999	8,432
\$8,000 or above	1,321
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,821</b>

- (b) Altogether 1 568 on-the-spot placements were recorded. As most participating companies continued to interview job-seekers after the job fairs, the gross placement figure would be higher.
- (c) The job fairs could bring employment opportunities to job-seekers in remote districts and save their time and money in travelling to urban areas for job applications. For the 4 job fairs targeted specifically at youths, young job-seekers had the added benefit of receiving careers counselling from social workers on the spot. On the whole, the job fairs were well received and feedback from employers and job-seekers was generally favourable.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)020**

Question Serial No.

0118

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question : For matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, the Labour Department will produce a digest of selected court cases to enhance public understanding of the Employment Ordinance. Will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the estimated production cost?
- (b) of the estimated number of printed copies to be produced?
- (c) of the places and targeted groups for distribution?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The Labour Department (LD) will produce a digest of selected court cases to enhance public understanding on the Employment Ordinance at a cost of around \$40,000.
- (b) Altogether 10 000 copies of the booklets will be published.
- (c) The main target groups will be employers, employees, human resources practitioners and trade union officials. The digest will be distributed free of charge through employer associations and trade unions as well as LD's industry-based tripartite committees, human resources managers' clubs and network of branch offices. It will also be uploaded onto LD's homepage.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)021**

Question Serial No.

0119

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

The Labour Department will hold a large-scale seminar to enhance tripartite co-operation among the Government, employers and employees. Will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the estimated production cost?
- (b) of the theme of the seminar?
- (c) of the estimated number of participants?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The estimated cost of organising the large-scale seminar is \$60,000.
- (b) The theme of the seminar will be “enhancing harmonious labour relations through tripartite co-operation among the Government, employers and employees”.
- (c) We expect that the seminar will attract some 300 participants.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)022**

Question Serial No.

1474

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What was the number of applications received and approved under the “Supplementary Labour Scheme” in 2004 and 2005? Please provide a breakdown of the figures by industry and post.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The number of applications received under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2004 and 2005 was 1 455 and 1 987 respectively, whilst the number of applications approved was 506 and 726 respectively. Details of the distribution of the vacancies received and approved by industry and by major job titles are at Appendices 1 to 8.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 10 March 2006

**Vacancies received under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2004  
with breakdown by industry**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Number of vacancies</b>
Agriculture and fishing	400
Manufacturing	458
Construction	142
Wholesale, retail and import/ export trades, restaurants and hotels	200
Transport, storage and communication	23
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	31
Community, social and personal services	201
Total	1455

**Vacancies received under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2005  
with breakdown by industry**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Number of vacancies</b>
Agriculture and fishing	412
Manufacturing	820
Construction	188
Wholesale, retail and import/ export trades, restaurants and hotels	161
Transport, storage and communication	71
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	54
Community, social and personal services	281
Total	1987



**Vacancies received under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2004  
with breakdown by job titles**

<b>Job titles</b>	<b>Number of vacancies</b>
Livestock/ Poultry/ Fish Farm Worker	355
Care Worker (Elderly Service)	130
Cook	115
General Sewing Machine Operator	105
Electronic Production Worker	100
Bean Curd/ Soya Bean/ Bean Sprout Processing Worker	51
Special Sewing Machine Operator	50
Installator	50
Timber Components Assembling Technician	30
Others	469
<b>Total</b>	<b>1455</b>

**Vacancies received under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2005  
with breakdown by job titles**

<b>Job titles</b>	<b>Number of vacancies</b>
Livestock/ Poultry/ Fish Farm Worker	379
General Sewing Machine Operator	226
Care Worker (Elderly Service)	214
Special Sewing Machine Operator	202
Cook	94
Mechanical Engineering Technician	47
Welder	42
Cable Jointer/ Wire Jointer	42
Machine Operator	40
Others	701
Total	1987

**Vacancies approved under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2004  
with breakdown by industry**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Number of vacancies</b>
Agriculture and fishing	336
Manufacturing	55
Construction	26
Wholesale, retail and import/ export trades, restaurants and hotels	32
Transport, storage and communication	5
Community, social and personal services	52
Total	506

**Vacancies approved under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2005  
with breakdown by industry**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Number of vacancies</b>
Agriculture and fishing	345
Manufacturing	178
Construction	55
Wholesale, retail and import/ export trades, restaurants and hotels	34
Transport, storage and communication	25
Community, social and personal services	89
Total	726

**Vacancies approved under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2004  
with breakdown by job titles**

<b>Job titles</b>	<b>Number of vacancies</b>
Livestock/ Poultry/ Fish Farm Worker	333
Care Worker (Elderly Service)	47
Timber Components Assembling Technician	26
Bean Curd/ Soya Bean/ Bean Sprout Processing Worker	25
Cook	14
Machine Operator	7
Foreman/ Leader/ Supervisor	6
Electroplating and Metal Coating Worker	5
Knitting Machine Operator	4
Others	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>

**Vacancies approved under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2005  
with breakdown by job titles**

<b>Job titles</b>	<b>Number of vacancies</b>
Livestock/ Poultry/ Fish Farm Worker	343
Care Worker (Elderly Service)	82
General Sewing Machine Operator	62
Welder	34
Linking Machine Operator	30
Bean Curd/ Soya Bean/ Bean Sprout Processing Worker	23
Mechanical Engineering Technician	23
Cook	23
Special Sewing Machine Operator	16
Others	90
Total	726

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)023**

Question Serial No.

0123

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

The original estimate for 2005-06 was \$457.7 million, which was much higher than the revised estimate of \$348.4 million. Please give reasons for the substantial reduction in the revised estimate.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The revised estimate of the Employment Services Programme for 2005-06 is lower than the original estimate mainly because of the following reasons:

- (a) Unfilled vacancies resulting in savings of about \$1.7 million.
- (b) The projected spending of the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme was revised downwards by about \$29 million as the number of trainees enrolled under the Programme was lower than expected owing to the improved employment market.
- (c) The number of participants joining the Work Trial Scheme was lower than expected. Hence, the projected spending was revised downwards by about \$2.4 million.
- (d) The cash flow requirement of the projects under Subhead 700 General non-recurrent was reduced by \$75.8 million. The largest reduction came from the Loan Guarantee Scheme for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome impacted industries which accounted for a reduction of about \$43 million owing to a much lower than expected default rate as a result of the improved business environment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)024**

Question Serial No.

0124

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

For matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, there is a plan to “step up intelligence-based enforcement and strengthen educational efforts to combat illegal employment”. Please elaborate on the details of the plan as well as the expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Labour Department (LD) will strengthen its intelligence collection and analysis and will mount more targeted operations with other enforcement departments to combat illegal employment. We will also step up our public education activities. To raise public awareness of the serious penalty of imprisonment for employing illegal workers, we will attach a newly-designed anti-illegal employment leaflet to the water bills sent to households and upload the same leaflet on LD's homepage. We will also upload a new form on LD's homepage to facilitate reporting of illegal employment activities by members of the public.

As the officers concerned will also undertake other enforcement and publicity activities, we do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved in combating illegal employment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)025**

Question Serial No.

0125

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

For matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, it is mentioned that the Labour Department will “hold a large-scale seminar to enhance tripartite co-cooperation among the Government, employers and employees” and “produce a digest of selected court cases to enhance public understanding of the Employment Ordinance”. Will the Administration give specific details of these activities, including the cost and staffing arrangements involved?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Labour Department (LD) will organise a large-scale seminar to enhance tripartite co-operation among the Government, employers and employees. The seminar will provide a forum for exchange of views and sharing experience. Representatives of employers, employees and the Government will be invited as speakers. We expect that the seminar will attract some 300 participants. The cost of organising the seminar will be around \$60,000. Existing manpower will be deployed for organising the event.

The LD will produce a digest of selected court cases to enhance public understanding on the Employment Ordinance. The digest will contain a gist of judgments made by the courts in selected labour cases. Altogether 10 000 copies of the booklet will be produced at a cost of around \$40,000. It will be distributed free of charge to employees and employers through trade unions and employer associations as well as LD's network of offices, industry-based tripartite committees and human resources managers' clubs. It will also be uploaded onto LD's homepage. Existing manpower will be deployed for producing the digest.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)026**

Question Serial No.

0126

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

The target time for “issuing certificates of compensation assessment” and “effecting payment in respect of applications to the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund (PWIF)” are within three weeks and ten weeks respectively. Will the Administration consider improving the services by shortening the target time so that employees can secure assistance as early as possible? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The 2006 target for issuing certificates of compensation assessment within three weeks is only a planning target. It is not the actual time required for the issue of every certificate. Our aim is to issue the certificates within the shortest possible time.

As for the target on effecting PWIF payment, our performance pledge is to issue payment to qualified applicants within ten weeks upon receipt of all relevant information and documents required for processing the applications. As the length of time required to process and verify each application depends on the complexity of the application and the adequacy of supporting evidence, and as the intake of applications may be unevenly distributed, we do not consider it appropriate to lower the target of “within ten weeks”. Notwithstanding the ten weeks target, our aim is to make payment as soon as practicable. In 2005, 91% of the qualified applicants were able to receive payment within eight weeks.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)027**

Question Serial No.

0127

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question : It is shown in the indicators that the number of fatal accidents in industrial undertakings increased by 25% from 24 cases in 2004 to 30 cases in 2005. In this regard, has the Labour Department found out the reasons and devised measures to prevent an increase in the number of cases?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The reason for the increase in the number of fatal accidents in industrial undertakings was largely due to the increase in the number of fatalities involving the use of truss-out scaffolds in building repair and maintenance works. The Administration has been addressing the problem through enforcement, publicity and promotion.

On enforcement, the Labour Department (LD) will continue to step up inspections to clamp down on the offending contractors. A voluntary referral system has also been established with the Association of Property Management Companies to notify LD of any repair and maintenance works involving truss-out scaffolds in their buildings.

On promotion and publicity, LD will launch a large-scale promotional campaign aimed at enhancing the safety and health awareness of employers and employees in the construction industry, with particular emphasis on safety in working at height and scaffolding work. We will also promote safety in repair and maintenance works, especially the use of truss-out scaffolds, through roving exhibitions, Announcements of Public Interest on television and radio, radio programmes, video broadcast on RoadShow, Firstvision and publication of accident casebooks. Through a sponsorship scheme jointly launched with the Occupational Safety and Health Council in October 2005, we will continue to provide financial assistance to small contractors to purchase fall protection equipment for use in truss-out scaffolding work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)028**

Question Serial No.

0190

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What were the respective numbers of participants that entered the catering industry through the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme, the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme and the Re-employment Training Programme for the Middle-aged in 2005-06? What was the percentage of these participants against the total number of successful placements in the year?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

**Youth Pre-employment Training Programme &  
Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme**

As the 2005/06 Programme for both the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme (YPTP) and the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme (YWETS) are still in progress and will be completed by October and August 2006 respectively, we can only provide the figures for the 2004/05 Programme.

The YPTP does not provide job placement services. However, according to information voluntarily reported by trainees of the 2004/05 Programme, about 755 trainees, representing 12.5% of all employed trainees worked in the catering industry. As regards the YWETS, 759 trainees or 8.7% of those placed in training vacancies under the Scheme were engaged in the catering industry.

**Re-employment Training Programme for the Middle-aged**

As at end-February 2006, the Labour Department has placed 983 job-seekers in the catering trade under the Re-employment Training Programme for the Middle-aged. They accounted for 5% of all the placements.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)029**

Question Serial No.

0191

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

What are the manpower and cost involved in intensifying efforts for intelligence collection and analysis to detect wage offences and combat illegal employment? Please provide information on the number of cases on intelligence collection and successful prosecutions taken against employers after investigation for the past three years. What are the respective figures of these cases relating to the catering, construction and import and export industries?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

On detecting wage offences

The Labour Department (LD) collects intelligence on wage offences from various sources, including members of the public, in the form of complaints and by labour inspectors during inspections. In the second half of 2005, the LD employed 7 experienced former police officers to further strengthen its intelligence gathering and evidence collection on wage and other related offences. The provision for employing the former police officers in 2006-07 is \$1.8 million.

The number of intelligence collected in 2003, 2004 and 2005 was 174, 148 and 313 respectively. The respective figures involving the catering, construction and import/export industries are provided below:

Industry	No. of intelligence received		
	2003	2004	2005
Catering	60	24	118
Construction	5	7	14
Import/Export	7	20	18

With stringent enforcement by LD, the number of successful convictions against employers contravening the wage provisions has been on the rise. In 2005, there were 587 convicted summonses, representing an increase of 16.5% and 31.9% respectively as compared with 504 summonses in 2004 and 445 summonses in 2003. The convicted summonses in respect of the catering, construction and import/export industries are provided below:

Industry	No. of summonses convicted		
	2003	2004	2005
Catering	83	48	114
Construction	115	116	141
Import/Export	10	32	18

On combating illegal employment

The number of intelligence on illegal employment received in 2003, 2004 and 2005 was 180, 371 and 395 respectively. The respective figures involving the catering, construction and import/export industries are provided below:

Industry	No. of intelligence received		
	2003	2004	2005
Catering	29	140	74
Construction	18	73	49
Import/Export	3	28	17

Labour inspectors do not have the power to arrest and prosecute illegal workers and their employers. Detected cases of suspected illegal employment are referred to the Immigration Department or the Police for further investigation and prosecution.

As labour inspectors also undertake other enforcement duties, we do not have a separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in this regard.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)030**

Question Serial No.

0192

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

How does the Labour Department assess the effectiveness of intensifying efforts for intelligence collection and analysis?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

On combating wage offences

The effectiveness of strengthened intelligence collection and analysis can be demonstrated by the increase in convictions on wage offences. In 2005, the number of convicted summonses was 587, registering increases of 16.5% and 31.9% when compared with the corresponding figures in 2004 and 2003.

On combating illegal employment

Based on the intelligence collected and analysed intensively, the Labour Department mounted more targeted joint operations with enforcement departments leading to fruitful results in 2005. The number of joint operations conducted in 2005 was 176, registering increases of 69% and 388% when compared with the corresponding figures in 2004 and 2003. As our enforcement action was targeted against employers involved in illegal employment activities, the number of offending employers arrested in 2005 rose to 237, an increase of 21% and 176% when compared to 2004 and 2003. In 2005, the number of illegal workers arrested was 538, representing an increase of 161% compared to that in 2003.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)031**

Question Serial No.

0193

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Please set out in a table, by the amount of payments and number of applications, the top three industries that account for the largest number of applications for payment under the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund for the past three years.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information requested is provided below:

Top three industries by the amount of payment made by the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund (PWIF)

Year	Industry	Amount of payment (\$ million)
2003	Restaurants	148.5
	Construction	75.2
	Import/Export	39.6
	Others	204.9
	Total	468.2
2004	Restaurants	115.5
	Construction	83.3
	Import/Export	23.1
	Others	159.6
	Total	381.5
2005	Restaurants	61.2
	Construction	42.8
	Import/Export	21.3
	Others	79.8
	Total	205.1



Top three industries by the number of applications to the PWIF

Year	Industry	Number of applications
2003	Restaurants	9 095
	Construction	4 351
	Import/Export	1 069
	Others	7 835
	Total	22 350
2004	Restaurants	5 333
	Construction	3 317
	Import/Export	942
	Others	4 039
	Total	13 631
2005	Restaurants	4 150
	Construction	1 915
	Miscellaneous Personal Services	545
	Others	3 357
	Total	9 967

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)032**

Question Serial No.

0194

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

For matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, it is mentioned that large-scale publicity campaigns will be launched to enhance the safety awareness of employers and employees in the construction and catering industries. Please provide details of the campaigns, including the formats, contents, estimated costs and expected number of participants.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

Two large-scale publicity campaigns will be launched in 2006-07 to enhance the safety awareness of employers and employees in the construction and catering industries. They will be organised in collaboration with the Occupational Safety and Health Council and key stakeholders in the two industries, including major trade associations, employee unions, related organisations and other government departments concerned.

The two publicity campaigns will both feature a territory-wide competition on occupational safety and health performance. Other publicity activities to be organised will include roving exhibitions, promotional visits, Announcements of Public Interest on television and radio, radio programmes, a fun day, an award presentation ceremony and broadcast of award-winning construction sites and catering establishments on RoadShow.

The publicity campaigns for the construction and catering industries are estimated to cost \$1.6 million and \$1.1 million respectively. The Labour Department will contribute \$0.1 million to each publicity campaign, with the balance to be met by the other co-organisers.

It is estimated that some 90 construction sites and 170 catering establishments will participate in the competitions of the two campaigns respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)033**

Question Serial No.

0195

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

For matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, it is mentioned that the Labour Department will strengthen publicity (including issuing a health guide) and enforcement efforts on the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders for workers in the catering industry. Please provide details of the work, including the estimated expenditure and staffing arrangements.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The prevention of musculoskeletal disorders for workers in the catering industry will be promoted through Announcements of Public Interest on television and radio, mobile advertising media, occupational health talks, exhibitions and distribution of posters and information booklets. A health guide will also be published. The activities will commence in April 2006 and continue throughout the year. The work will be undertaken by one Occupational Health Officer, one Occupational Hygienist, one Nursing Officer and one Registered Nurse in addition to their other duties. The promotion programme is estimated to cost around \$1.2 million, and the Labour Department will contribute \$0.2 million with the balance to be met by other stakeholders.

In addition, we will step up inspections of restaurants to ensure that the workers are adequately protected against musculoskeletal disorders. The inspection work will be conducted by 14 Occupational Hygienists in addition to their other duties.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
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Date 9 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)034**

Question Serial No.

0308

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Under this Programme, the figure of labour disputes and claims with conciliation service rendered excludes those cases in which conciliation service has not been rendered because the employers concerned are insolvent or cannot be reached for conciliation. Will the Administration inform this Council of the respective numbers of claims where the employers concerned were insolvent or could not be reached as handled by the Labour Department in 2004 and 2005? What was the number of wage offences involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

Statistics on labour disputes and claims where conciliation service has not been rendered because the employers concerned are insolvent or cannot be reached for conciliation are as follows:

Number of labour disputes and claims where conciliation service has not been rendered	Year	
	2004	2005
For reason that the employers concerned are insolvent	826	471
For reason that the employers cannot be reached for conciliation	1 108	891
Total	1 934	1 362

We do not have breakdown of such cases by nature of claims.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)035**

Question Serial No.

0309

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

With respect to the labour disputes / claims handled and settled by the Labour Department in 2004 and 2005, please provide the following information:

- (a) the number of labour disputes and claims involving non-payment of wages; and
- (b) a breakdown of the above cases by industry.

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

- (a) Statistics on labour disputes and claims involving arrears of wages handled by the Labour Department are as follows:

Number of labour disputes and claims	Year	
	2004	2005
Handled	9 476 (100%)	9 279 (100%)
Settled by conciliation	6 404 (67.6%)	6 708 (72.3%)

- (b) We only maintain further breakdown by industry for cases involving more than 20 employees. As far as arrears of wages are concerned, the breakdown by industry is as follows:

Industry	Year	
	2004	2005
Manufacturing	2 (11.8%)	2 (33.3%)
Construction	10 (58.8%)	3 (50.0%)
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurant & hotels	3 (17.6%)	–
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services	2 (11.8%)	–
Community, social and personal services	–	1 (16.7%)
Total	17 (100%)	6 (100%)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)036**

Question Serial No.

1914

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

The actual indicators of investigated cases related to imported workers in 2004 and 2005 were both 25, will the Government inform this Council whether the respective numbers of investigations conducted in these two years were only 25? If yes, whether a higher indicator will be set for 2006?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

The indicators of investigated cases in 2004 and 2005 refer to the actual number of cases investigated and are not planned targets.

Investigation will be taken out on all complaints and suspected irregularities detected during routine inspections by Labour Inspectors. In 2005, 1 032 inspection visits were conducted to workplaces and accommodation of imported workers to safeguard their rights and benefits under the Supplementary Labour Scheme and the labour laws.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)037**

Question Serial No.

1915

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What are the figures of complaints relating to the employment of imported workers received, cases investigated, prosecutions taken and successful prosecutions in 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

In 2005, 19 complaints relating to importation of workers were received. The number of cases investigated was 25, including investigation into the abovementioned 19 complaints and six cases on suspected irregularities detected during routine inspections by Labour Inspectors. One employer of imported workers was convicted and fined \$8,000 for failing to take out employees' compensation insurance policy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)038**

Question Serial No.

1916

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the plan to step up intelligence-based enforcement and strengthen educational efforts to combat illegal employment, what are the details, manpower and provision involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

We will strengthen our intelligence collection and analysis and will mount more targeted operations with other enforcement departments to combat illegal employment. We will also step up our public education efforts. To raise public awareness of the severe penalty of imprisonment for employing illegal workers, we will attach a newly-designed anti-illegal employment leaflet to the water bills sent to households and upload the same leaflet on Labour Department's (LD's) homepage. We will also upload a new form on LD's homepage to facilitate reporting of illegal employment activities by members of the public.

As the officers concerned will also undertake other enforcement and publicity activities, we do not have a separate breakdown of the manpower and funding provision involved in combating illegal employment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)039**

Question Serial No.

1917

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

A post will be deleted in 2006-07. What are the job title and nature of the post? What is the reason for the deletion?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

One Office Assistant post will be deleted in 2006-07 as a result of the re-engineering of administrative support services.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)040**

Question Serial No.

1918

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What are the job title, number and nature of the vacancies to be filled in 2005-06?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

No vacancy will be filled in 2005-06.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)041**

Question Serial No.

0892

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) / Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

Since 2002-03, the target set for the waiting time for conciliation meetings for claims has been revised from within 4 weeks to within 5 weeks. As the number of claims has dropped substantially, why does the Administration not revert the target to within 4 weeks?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

While 2005 saw a drop in the number of labour disputes and claims handled, the overall workload of the Labour Relations Division (LRD) of the Labour Department had not diminished. This is because in 2005, we devoted much efforts in stepping up our offence investigation work, offering professional advice to employers on improved management practices, and enhancing our surveillance of problematic restaurants to guard against wage defaults. As a result, the quality of our conciliation service has been enhanced, as reflected by the overall settlement rate at 69.8% achieved in 2005 – up 2.5% over 2004 and the highest since 1994.

While our target is to ensure that the waiting time for conciliation meetings for labour claims does not exceed 5 weeks, the actual average waiting time for conciliation meetings in 2005 was only 2.4 weeks, substantially shorter than 3.3 weeks in 2004.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)042**

Question Serial No.

0893

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the labour disputes handled in 2005, please provide a breakdown of the figures by industry and cause.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

Statistics on labour disputes handled by the Labour Relations Division of the Labour Department in 2005 are as follows:

Breakdown by industry

<b>Industry</b>	<b>No. of labour disputes</b>
Construction	113
Restaurants & hotels	64
Manufacturing	17
Community, social and personal services	16
Transport, storage and communication	16
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services	7
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>

Breakdown by cause

<b>Cause</b>	<b>No. of labour disputes</b>
Disputes involving principal contractor and subcontractor	107
Insolvency	61
Cessation of business	33
Non-payment of wages	6
Retrenchment	5
Layoff	4
Dismissal	3
Variation of terms of employment contract	2
Others	16

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)043**

Question Serial No.

0894

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the claims handled in 2005, please provide a breakdown of the figures by cause.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

Breakdown of labour claims handled by the Labour Relations Division of the Labour Department in 2005 by cause is as follows:

Cause	2005
Termination of contract	11 220
Non-payment of wages	9 273
Non-payment of holiday pay/ annual leave pay/ rest day pay/ sickness allowance	1 995
Cessation of business	633
Insolvency	287
Retrenchment	270
Lay-off	132
Variation of terms of employment contract	64
Others	2 078

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
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Date 9 March 2006

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INITIAL WRITTEN**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)044**

Question Serial No.

0895

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the labour disputes and claims handled in 2005, what are the details and the number of cases involving contractors undertaking works for or providing service to the Government?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

In 2005, we handled 46 labour disputes (i.e. cases with more than 20 workers) that were related to public works projects. These disputes involved a total of 1,841 workers.

We do not maintain statistics on labour disputes involving government service contractors and on labour claims (i.e. cases with 20 or less workers) involving public works contracts and government service contractors.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)045**

Question Serial No.

0896

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

Regarding the placements secured under the “ Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme” in 2005, please provide a breakdown of the figures by sex, age, industry, occupation and earnings.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme runs from 7 August of the year to 6 August of the following year. As the 2005/06 Programme is still in progress, we can only provide figures for the 2004/05 Programme.

During the 2004/05 Programme Year, there were 8 712 placements. A breakdown by sex and age, industry, occupational group and earnings is as follows –

Breakdown by sex and age

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
15-19	1 303	1 605	2 908
20 or above	2 935	2 869	5 804
Total	4 238	4 474	8 712

Breakdown by industry

Industry	No. of placements
Education Services	1 189
Wholesale and Retail	1 124
Personal Services	789
Catering	759
Import and Export	748
Others	4 103
Total	8 712

Breakdown by occupational group

Occupational Group	No. of placements
General Assistant/Data-entry Clerk/Clerk	2 111
Sales and Marketing Representative	1 275
Information Technology Officer	827
Beautician	708
Programme Coordinator/ Programme Assistant	495
Others	3 296
Total	8 712

Breakdown by earnings

Earnings	No. of placements
\$4,000 - \$4,999	4 373
\$5,000 - \$5,999	3 223
\$6,000 or above	1 116
Total	8 712

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)046**

Question Serial No.

0897

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What are the estimated expenditure of and the expected number of trainees under the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The estimated expenditure of the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme in 2006-07 is \$95 million. It is difficult to estimate the number of trainees joining the Scheme in 2006-07 as this depends on the labour market situation and the response from employers.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)047**

Question Serial No.

0898

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the placements secured under the Re-employment Training Programme for the Middle-aged in 2005, please provide a breakdown of the figures by sex, age, industry, occupation and earnings.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

As at end-February 2006, altogether 19 170 job-seekers have been placed into employment under the Re-employment Training Programme for the Middle-aged. Of these, 55% were female and 64% were aged between 40 and 50 while the rest were aged 51 and above. They were mainly placed in real estate (18%), business services (11%), community and social services (13%), import and export trades (7%), wholesale or retail (8%) and the rest in a wide variety of sectors. As regards occupations, 24% of those placed were engaged as security guards or carpark assistants, 14% as cleaners, 10% as packers, stock-keepers, messengers or delivery workers, 9% as labourers, 7% as clerks and the rest in other job titles. About 53% of them were placed in jobs with monthly wages between \$5,000 and \$6,999 while 22% with wages at \$7,000 and above and the remaining 25% were placed in jobs with wages below \$5,000.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)048**

Question Serial No.

0899

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What are the estimated expenditure and the expected number of participants under the Re-employment Training Programme for the Middle-aged in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The estimated expenditure of the Re-employment Training Programme for the Middle-aged in 2006-07 is \$9 million. It is difficult to estimate the number of participants under this programme in 2006-07 as this depends on the labour market situation and the response from employers.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)049**

Question Serial No.

0900

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour)  
/Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the placements secured through the employment services of the Labour Department for able-bodied job-seekers in 2005, please provide a breakdown of the figures by sex, age, industry, occupation and earnings.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

In 2005, the Labour Department (LD) secured 113 090 placements for able-bodied job-seekers. Of these, 26 947 were through direct referrals by the LD while the others were by job-seekers successfully applying to employers for jobs registered with the LD. The breakdown of the placements through direct referrals by sex and age, industry, occupational group and earnings is as follows:

Breakdown by sex and age

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
15-19	808	859	1 667
20-29	3 898	3 216	7 114
30-39	1 695	2 462	4 157
40-49	2 810	5 640	8 450
50-59	2 384	2 614	4 998
60 or above	405	156	561
Total	12 000	14 947	26 947

Breakdown by industry

Industry	No. of placements
Manufacturing	3 806
Construction	1 141
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	6 885
Transport, storage and communications	1 453
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	5 293
Community, social and personal services	5 697
Others (including government sector)	2 672
Total	26 947

Breakdown by occupational group

Occupational Group	No. of placements
Managers and Administrators	137
Professionals	201
Associate Professionals	1 620
Clerks	7 318
Service Workers	2 122
Shop Sales Workers	1 520
Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Forestry Workers and Fishermen	146
Craft and Related Workers	1 018
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	1 274
Elementary Occupations	11 525
Others	66
Total	26 947

Breakdown by earnings

Earnings	No. of placements
\$4,000 or below	5 359 *
\$4,001 - \$5,000	4 514
\$5,001 - \$6,000	6 898
\$6,001 - \$7,000	4 692
\$7,001 - \$8,000	2 778
\$8,001 - \$9,000	1 090
\$9,001 - \$10,000	532
\$10,001 or above	1 084
Total	26 947

\*mainly part-time or temporary jobs

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

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Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)050**

Question Serial No.

0901

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the placements secured through the employment services of the Labour Department for disabled job-seekers in 2005, please provide a breakdown of the figures by sex, age, industry, occupation and earnings.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

In 2005, the Labour Department secured 2 459 placements for disabled job-seekers. A breakdown by sex, age, industry group, occupational group and salary is set out below.

(a) By sex and age group

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
15-19	93	48	141
20-29	536	625	1 161
30-39	301	269	570
40-49	202	243	445
50-59	85	45	130
60 or above	5	7	12
Total	1 222	1 237	2 459

(b) By industry group

Industry Group	Total
Manufacturing	463
Construction	27
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	639
Transport, storage and communications	79
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	521
Community, social and personal services	589
Others (including government sector)	141
Total	2 459



(c) By occupational group

Occupational group	Number of placements
Professional, technical and related workers (e.g. Technician, tutor, programmer, etc.)	33
Administrative and managerial workers (e.g. Office Manager, Marketing Executive, Executive Officer, etc.)	14
Clerical and related workers (e.g. General Office Clerk, Courier, Receptionist, etc.)	505
Sales workers (e.g. Salesperson, Card Distributor, Shop Assistant, etc.)	606
Service workers (e.g. Cleaner, Security Guard, Kitchen Helper, etc.)	592
Production workers, transport equipment operators and labourers (e.g. Delivery Worker, Storeworker, Packer, etc.)	709
Total	2 459

(d) By salary group

Salary group	Number of placements
Under \$3,000*	1 022
\$3,000 - \$3,999	334
\$4,000 - \$4,999	485
\$5,000 - \$5,999	313
\$6,000 - \$6,999	194
\$7,000 - \$7,999	89
\$8,000 - \$8,999	16
\$9,000 or above	6
Total	2 459

\* mainly part-time jobs

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)051**

Question Serial No.

0902

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Among those people who sought consultation service at the occupational health clinics in 2005, what were the respective numbers of people diagnosed to be suffering from occupational diseases and non-occupational diseases? Please give a breakdown, by sex, age, industry, occupation and type of disease, on the number of patients suffering from occupational diseases and non-occupational diseases.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

In 2005, a total of 2 160 patients sought consultation at the Kwun Tong Occupational Health Clinic. Of these, 1 814 (84%) suffered from diseases or injuries caused by, related to or aggravated by work, and the remaining 346 (16%) had illnesses or injuries unrelated to work.

The following tables give a breakdown of the two groups of patients by sex, age, industry, occupation and nature of illness:-

By sex

Disease/injury	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Caused by, related to or aggravated by work	588 (32%)	1 226 (68%)	1 814 (100%)
Unrelated to work	162 (47%)	184 (53%)	346 (100%)

By age group

Age group	Disease/injury	
	Caused by, related to or aggravated by work	Unrelated to work
< = 20	6 (0.3%)	4 (1.2%)
21-40	755 (41.6%)	115 (33.2%)
41-60	1 029 (56.8%)	217 (62.7%)
>60	24 (1.3%)	10 (2.9%)
Total	1 814 (100%)	346 (100%)

By industry

Industry	Disease/injury	
	Caused by, related to or aggravated by work	Unrelated to work
Community, social and personal services	824 (45%)	120 (35%)
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	360 (20%)	65 (19%)
Manufacturing	211 (12%)	29 (8%)
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	141 (8%)	26 (8%)
Transport, storage and communications	126 (7%)	22 (6%)
Others	152 (8%)	84 (24%)
Total	1 814 (100%)	346 (100%)

By occupation

Occupation	Disease/injury	
	Caused by, related to or aggravated by work	Unrelated to work
Clerical and related personnel	527 (29%)	73 (21%)
Service personnel	485 (27%)	75 (22%)
Production and related personnel, transport equipment operators and labourers	354 (19%)	68 (19%)
Professionals and technicians	236 (13%)	44 (13%)
Others	212 (12%)	86 (25%)
Total	1 814 (100%)	346 (100%)

By nature of illness

Nature of illness	Caused by, related to or aggravated by work	Unrelated to work
Musculoskeletal	1 679 (92.6%)	199 (57.5%)
Skin	28 (1.5%)	13 (3.8%)
Auditory	11 (0.6%)	15 (4.3%)
Respiratory	10 (0.5%)	14 (4.0%)
Visual	5 (0.3%)	9 (2.6%)
Others	81 (4.5%)	96 (27.8%)
Total	1 814 (100%)	346 (100%)

Signature

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Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)052**

Question Serial No.

0903

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Please give a breakdown on the number of staff at the directorate, upper, middle and lower levels# under this Programme.

- # Lower level post : mid-point salary equivalent to Point 9 or below on the Master Pay Scale;
- Middle level post : mid-point salary equivalent to Point 10 to 33 on the Master Pay Scale;
- Upper level post : mid-point salary equivalent to Point 34 or above on the Master Pay Scale.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The breakdown of the estimated establishment as at 31 March 2007 under this Programme is as follows:

<u>Type of Post</u>	<u>Number</u>
Directorate posts	6
Upper level posts	146
Middle level posts	316
Lower level posts	186

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)053**

Question Serial No.

1113

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Please provide a breakdown of cases on the basis of the time required to effect payment in respect of applications to the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund in 2005.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The time required to effect payment from the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund in respect of applications processed in 2005 is as follows:

Payment Time	Number of Applications
4 weeks or less	6 442
More than 4 weeks to 6 weeks	1 579
More than 6 weeks to 8 weeks	1 483
More than 8 weeks to 10 weeks	766
More than 10 weeks	174
Total	10 444

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)054**

Question Serial No.

1114

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the employee compensation claims processed in 2005, please provide a breakdown of the figures by industry. As at the end of 2005, how many cases had been settled? How much compensation was involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

In 2005, the Labour Department processed 57 994 employee compensation claims reported under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance. Of these, 44 674 cases with compensation amounting to some \$246 million were resolved as at the end of 2005. The rest are pending assessment of permanent incapacity, expiry of sick leave or determination by the court.

With the exception of minor cases, the reported cases were classified by the following industries:

Industries	No. of cases	Percentage
Community, social and personal services	12 190	25.7%
Catering	9 388	19.8%
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	5 329	11.2%
Transport, storage and communication	4 887	10.3%
Wholesale, retail, import/export trades and hotels	4 691	9.9%
Manufacturing	4 095	8.6%
Construction	3 710	7.8%
Other industries	3 188	6.7%
Total	47 478	100.0%

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)055**

Question Serial No.

0952

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Please explain why the estimate for general departmental expenses in 2006-07 has increased to \$156 million.

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply:

The 2006-07 estimate of \$156 million for general departmental expenses represents an increase of \$34 million over the revised estimate for 2005-06. The increase in provision is mainly to cater for:

- (a) the anticipated increase in expenditure under the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme as a result of the improvement measures introduced to the Programme, i.e. allowing trainees to take up more vocational training courses and increasing the one-month placement attachment allowance for trainees from \$1,000 to \$2,000 (about \$25 million);
- (b) the setting-up cost and general expenses for two new job centres to be set up in Yuen Long and North District (about \$3.2 million);
- (c) the increased cash flow requirement for the Work Trial Scheme and the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme (about \$2.9 million);
- (d) the launching of large-scale publicity campaigns to further enhance the safety awareness of employers and employees (about \$1.8 million); and
- (e) the general expenses for a new occupational health clinic to be set up in North District (about \$0.5 million).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)056**

Question Serial No.

0953

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

The estimated general non-recurrent expenditure for 2006-07 is substantially reduced by more than 10% when compared with the actual expenditure in 2004-05 and the revised estimate for 2005-06. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply:

The estimated cash flow requirement for Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent for 2006-07 is \$15.3 million (10.5%) lower than the actual expenditure in 2004-05. This is due to the following reasons:

- (a) The Loan Guarantee Scheme for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Impacted Industries (SARS Loan Scheme), set up in the wake of the outbreak of SARS in 2003, recorded an expenditure of \$23.9 million in 2004-05. As a result of the subsequent improvement in the business environment, the default rate of the loans made under the Scheme has dropped substantially. Taking this as well as the amount of outstanding loans to be repaid (which had been reduced substantially since 2004-05) into account, it is estimated that \$5 million will suffice for the Scheme in 2006-07. This represents a decrease of \$18.9 million over the actual expenditure in 2004-05.
- (b) Five projects under Subhead 700, namely the Graduate Employment Training Programme, the “Provision of job opportunities through improvement in environmental hygiene in public housing estates” Project, the Trial Placement Scheme For People With A Disability (TPS), the Skills Enhancement Project and the Youth Self-employment Support Scheme (YSSS), which recorded a total expenditure of \$20.5 million in 2004-05, were completed in 2004-05 and 2005-06. As there is no need to make provision for the first four projects in 2006-07 while a small provision of \$5 million will be required for the YSSS to cater for outstanding payments brought forward from 2005-06, there will be a decrease of \$15.5 million compared with the actual expenditure in 2004-05.
- (c) The decrease in cash flow requirement in 2006-07 owing to (a) and (b) above, totalling \$34.4 million, is partly offset by additional cash flow requirement for three projects, namely the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme (YWETS), the Re-employment Training Programme for the Middle-aged (RTP) and the Incentive Allowance for Local Domestic Helpers, amounting to an increase of \$19.1 million over the actual expenditure of the three projects in 2004-05. As a result, the overall decrease in the cash flow requirement for Subhead 700 for 2006-07 compared with the actual expenditure in 2004-05 is reduced to \$15.3 million.

The estimated cash flow requirement for Subhead 700 for 2006-07 is \$15.7 million (10.8%) lower than the revised estimate for 2005-06. This is due to the following reasons:

- (a) The TPS and YSSS were completed in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The total revised estimate for the two projects for 2005-06 is \$12.7 million (for the TPS, a small provision was required in 2005-06 to cater for outstanding payments brought forward from 2004-05). As there is no need to make provision for the TPS in 2006-07 while a small provision of \$5 million will be required for the YSSS to cater for outstanding payments brought forward from 2005-06, there will be a decrease of \$7.7 million compared with the revised estimate for 2005-06.
- (b) Taking into account the reduced default rate of the loans made under the SARS Loan Scheme as a result of the improvement in the business environment and the amount of outstanding loans to be repaid, the estimated cash flow requirement for the Scheme for 2006-07 is adjusted to \$5 million, which is \$2 million lower than the revised estimate for the Scheme for 2005-06.
- (c) The number of trainees enrolled under the YWETS and RTP in 2005-06 is lower than expected owing to the improved employment market. In view of this and taking into account the expenditure under these two projects in 2005-06, the estimated cash flow requirements for the two projects for 2006-07 are adjusted to \$95 million and \$9 million respectively, which are \$5 million and \$1 million lower than the revised estimates for the two projects for 2005-06 respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

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Date 9 March 2006

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)057**

Question Serial No.

0954

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Of all the complaints investigated in 2005, three required one more day for handling after the target timeframe of one week. Please provide information on the procedures for investigation of complaints and explain why it took a longer time to deal with these complaints.

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply:

Upon receipt of a complaint, labour inspectors will verify details of the complaint with the complainant if information provided is insufficient, visit the establishment concerned to interview the employees and check the employment records, and take statements if suspected offences are detected. In 2005, three cases required one more day for handling after the target time frame owing to inadequate information.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
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Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)058**

Question Serial No.

0955

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

In 2006-07, the Labour Department will strengthen publicity and enforcement efforts on the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders for workers in the catering industry. Please provide details on the number of cases on workers in this industry who have approached the relevant department for clinical consultations after suffering from the disease and the enforcement action taken over the past three years (i.e. 2003-04 to 2005-06).

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply:

The numbers of workers in the catering industry attending the department's Kwun Tong Occupational Health Clinic in 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders were 65, 80 and 70 respectively.

In the past three years, the department conducted inspections to restaurants to ensure that workers were adequately protected from health hazards (including those causing musculoskeletal disorders) and took enforcement action when necessary. Details are as follows:-

Year	2003	2004	2005
No. of inspections conducted	103	173	307
No. of warning letters issued	71	34	95
No. of improvement notices issued	0	2	2
No. of suspension notices issued	0	1	0

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)059**

Question Serial No.

1440

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

Please explain why there has been a persistent increase in the number of investigations/surveys/examinations/assessments/clinical consultations on occupational health conducted and pressure equipment registered in 2004, 2005 and 2006? What are the criteria for determining the required number of investigations/surveys/examinations/assessments/clinical consultations on occupational health conducted?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply:

The increase in the number of investigations, surveys, examinations, assessments, and clinical consultations on occupational health conducted from 19 196 in 2004 to 20 708 in 2005 was mainly due to the larger number of clinical consultations. In determining the number of such activities to be conducted in a year, we take into consideration the manpower available and the demand for such services. As we anticipate a further increase in the demand for clinical consultations, a new occupational health clinic will be set up in North District in the second half of 2006. As a result, the planned number of investigations, surveys, examinations, assessments and clinical consultations on occupational health to be conducted in 2006 will increase to 21 000.

In 2004 and 2005, the newly registered pressure equipment covered mostly air receivers and steam receivers. These kinds of pressure equipment were mainly used in the industrial sectors and medical institutions. The slight increase in the number of pressure equipment registered from 1 402 in 2004 to 1 433 in 2005 and to an estimate of 1 460 in 2006 is due to the increase in economic activities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)060**

Question Serial No.

1441

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

(a) Why is the estimated number of applications under the “Supplementary Labour Scheme” (SLS) to be processed further increased from 513 in 2005 to 610 in 2006? Is it true that the expected 100 additional applications will all come from the Manpower Development Plan for the Textiles and Clothing Industry? (b) Please provide a breakdown, by industry, of the applications made under the SLS in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply:

(a) It is estimated that 100 more applications would be processed under the SLS in 2006. The forecast is based on the likely tightening of the labour market as a result of the economic revival and the launching of the new flexibility measures for the importation of skilled labour to facilitate employers wishing to expand their production lines in the textiles and clothing industry in Hong Kong.

(b) Details of the distribution of the vacancies received by industry are at Appendices 1 to 2.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 10 March 2006

**Vacancies received under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2004  
with breakdown by industry**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Number of vacancies</b>
Agriculture and fishing	400
Manufacturing	458
Construction	142
Wholesale, retail and import/ export trades, restaurants and hotels	200
Transport, storage and communication	23
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	31
Community, social and personal services	201
Total	1455



**Vacancies received under the Supplementary Labour Scheme in 2005  
with breakdown by industry**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Number of vacancies</b>
Agriculture and fishing	412
Manufacturing	820
Construction	188
Wholesale, retail and import/ export trades, restaurants and hotels	161
Transport, storage and communication	71
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	54
Community, social and personal services	281
Total	1987

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)061**

Question Serial No.

0958

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

It is planned that 610 applications under the Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS) will be processed in 2006, which represents an increase of 97 applications or nearly 20% when compared with 2005. In this regard, please provide the following information:

- (a) the reasons for such a relatively big increase in the number of cases;
- (b) the respective numbers of new applications and applications for renewal in relation to the 610 cases;
- (c) the estimated change in the average processing time and manpower required for each application when compared with 2005; and
- (d) the reasons for the persistent increase in the number of applications under the SLS in recent years.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

- (a) It is estimated that 100 more applications would be processed under the SLS in 2006. The forecast is based on the likely tightening of the labour market as a result of the economic revival and the launching of the new flexibility measures to provide a platform for employers wishing to expand their production lines in the textiles and clothing industry in Hong Kong.
- (b) We do not accept renewal of employment of imported workers automatically. Employers have to submit fresh applications if they wish to continue to employ imported workers after their incumbent imported workers' contracts have expired.
- (c) Our target time for processing applications under the SLS remains between nine to 12 weeks, and that under the SLS (Flexibility Measures for the Textiles and Clothing Industry) would be eight weeks. Our aim is to complete processing each case as soon as practicable.
- (d) The increase in the number of applications in 2005 mainly came from care homes and pig/chicken farms. The increase was attributable to the improving employment market and thus fewer workers were interested in jobs in these sectors, which were obnoxious in nature. Besides, the number of applications from the textiles and clothing industry has also increased as some manufacturers have expanded their production capacity in Hong Kong following the imposition of quota restrictions by the United States and European Union on Mainland-made textiles and clothing products.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)062**

Question Serial No.

0959

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

It is proposed to relax the scheme rules for the “Incentive Allowance Scheme for Local Domestic Helpers” in 2006-07. Please provide information on the specific arrangements, number of domestic helpers expected to benefit from relaxation of the rules and the cost involved.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

A sum of \$60 million has been earmarked for the Special Incentive Allowance Scheme for Local Domestic Helpers (LDHs) to benefit 8 000 LDHs. In December 2005, we extended the “unsocial hours” to cover the entire Saturday and Sunday. We also extended the claim period of all eligible LDH claimants from one year to two. The relaxation measures do not affect the quota of 8 000. No additional funding would be incurred as the maximum amount of allowance (\$7,200) available to each eligible LDH remains unchanged.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)063**

Question Serial No.

0960

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

As the efforts for intelligence collection and analysis will be further intensified and more targeted operations will be launched to detect wage offence and combat illegal employment, please provide the following information:

- (a) the number of departmental staff and the expenditure involved.
- (b) the number of intelligence-based inspections in relation to the 133 014 inspections to workplaces recorded in 2005.
- (c) the reason for not increasing the manpower for the above tasks.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

- (a) In 2006, the Labour Department (LD) will continue to employ the seven experienced former police officers to strengthen the intelligence gathering and evidence collection on wage and other related offences. The provision for employing the former police officers in 2006-07 is \$1.8 million. For other officers who are involved in intelligence collection and analysis in relation to wage offences and illegal employment, as they also undertake other enforcement duties, we do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure on these officers' involvement in the work.
- (b) In 2005, LD received 313 intelligence on wage offences and 395 intelligence on illegal employment. Inspections were conducted to verify the intelligence and to carry out enforcement action. We have not kept statistics on the total number of inspections conducted on the basis of the intelligence received.
- (c) In the second half of 2005, LD employed seven experienced former police officers to further strengthen its capacity in intelligence gathering and evidence collection. We will continue to employ these officers in 2006.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)064**

Question Serial No.

1452

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the labour disputes and claims where conciliation service has not been rendered because the employers concerned are insolvent or cannot be reached for conciliation, what were the respective numbers of cases and the total amount of claims involved in 2004 and 2005? What are the estimated number and the rate of change under this item in 2006? What are the reasons for such a change? Has the Administration put in place any contingency measures? Please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

Statistics on labour disputes and claims where conciliation service has not been rendered because the employers concerned are insolvent or cannot be reached for conciliation are as follows:

Number of labour disputes and claims where conciliation service has not been rendered	Year			
	2004		2005	
	No. of cases	Amount claimed	No. of cases	Amount claimed
For reason that the employers concerned are insolvent	826	\$273 million	471	\$201 million
For reason that the employers cannot be reached for conciliation	1 108	Figures not kept	891	Figures not kept
Total	1 934	-	1 362	-

We would not be able to forecast the number of such cases in 2006. However, when any such case comes to the attention of the Labour Relations Division of the Labour Department, we shall assist the workers to file their claims at the Labour Tribunal or make applications for ex-gratia payment from the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund as appropriate.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)065**

Question Serial No.

1453

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the creation of 17 posts in 2006-07 to meet the manpower requirement for setting up a new job centre each in Yuen Long and North District, what are the posts, ranks and terms and length of employment of staff (e.g. whether the staff are on contract terms or employed by outsourced contractors) involved? What is the estimated number of residents in remote areas to benefit from the employment services to be provided by the two new job centres?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The 17 permanent posts to be created in 2006-07 for setting up a job centre each in Yuen Long and North District comprise 2 Labour Officers, 1 Assistant Labour Officer I, 4 Clerical Officers, 8 Assistant Clerical Officers and 2 Clerical Assistants. The two new job centres will provide a full range of employment services to job-seekers and employers. However, it is difficult to estimate the number of service users of the two new centres as this depends on the labour market situation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)066**

Question Serial No.

1454

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the setting up of a new occupational health clinic in North District in 2006-07, what are the rank and number of staff involved, the services to be provided and fees charged, the target groups and opening hours?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The new occupational health clinic in North District will provide clinical consultations for employees suspected to have work-related diseases or injuries. The consultations will be provided by the department's existing team of nine occupational health officers in the clinical stream in addition to their other duties. Nursing and supporting staff of the clinic, including one Nursing Officer, three Registered Nurses, one Assistant Clerical Officer, one Clerical Assistant and one Workman II will be provided through internal redeployment. The consultation fees for new case and old case are \$100 and \$60 respectively. On present plan, the opening hours of the clinic will be 9 am to 5 pm (Monday to Friday) and 9 am to 1 pm (Saturday).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)067**

Question Serial No.

1882

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What are the details of the estimated expenditure for and the costs to be incurred in implementing a Manpower Development Plan for the Textiles and Clothing Industry?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

A one-off sum of \$2.5 million in 2005-06 was provided to the Clothing Industry Training Authority (CLITA) to meet the setting up cost of the recruitment-cum-training centre. A non-recurrent sum of \$1.1 million would be set aside for the provision of retraining allowances to retrainees attending classroom training and the follow-up service to be rendered by CLITA to retrainees aged below 30 with education level above secondary three. (Expenses related to retrainees aged 30 or above and with education level of secondary three and below will be funded by the Employees Retraining Board.) The annual staff cost incurred by the Plan for the Labour Department for processing of applications and enforcement of statutory regulations and conditions of the Plan would be \$4.9 million while \$1 million has been earmarked for the Immigration Department to handle entry applications and extension-of-stay applications. All expenditure will be absorbed by the Labour Department.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)068**

Question Serial No.

1883

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

In order to deploy staff to focus on major hazards, the targets for inspections and promotional visits to workplaces under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance are revised downwards to 107 100 and 4 550 respectively. Moreover, the numbers of inspections and visits planned for 2006 programme are adjusted downwards to the target level, which are far below the actual figures of 2004 and 2005. In this regard, (a) how does the Administration ensure that risks to the safety and health of people at work are properly managed; and (b) what specific manpower and procedural arrangements does the Labour Department make in handling work of different risk levels?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

- (a) We are committed to ensuring the safety and health of people at work through enforcement, education, promotion and publicity.
- (b) In 2006, we will target our inspections at industries which have the highest number of serious accidents or accident rates, such as construction sites, catering establishments, building repair and maintenance works, and container handling and storage. We will also launch a series of enforcement campaigns focusing on high-risk or accident-prone operations as follows :-
- (i) working-at-height;
  - (ii) scaffolding works, in particular truss-out scaffolding;
  - (iii) catering safety;
  - (iv) cargo and container handling; and
  - (v) lifting operations involving the use of heavy equipment such as tower cranes, mobile cranes and hoists.

During the campaigns, rigorous law enforcement action will be taken to secure compliance with the safety legislation. For industries with relatively lower risks, we will assist the duty holders to understand their legal obligations mainly through publicity, education and promotion. Enforcement action, however, will be taken during investigation of accidents and complaints. About 240 officers will participate in the above operations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)069**

Question Serial No.

1884

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

In 2006-07, the Labour Department will continue the proactive and pre-emptive strategy and strengthen intelligence-based enforcement to clamp down on wage offences. In this regard, (a) what is the number of staff specially deployed to combat wage offences; and (b) whether the Department will increase the manpower and resources for the task in 2006-07? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons and how does the Department ensure there will be sufficient manpower to efficiently carry out the above task?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

- (a) At present, the Employment Claims Investigation Division and the Labour Inspection Division of the Labour Department (LD) are involved in enforcement against wage offences and officers in these divisions also undertake other enforcement duties. In the second half of 2005, LD employed seven former experienced police officers to further strengthen its capacity in intelligence gathering and evidence collection on wage and other related offences.
- (b) In 2006, LD will continue to employ the seven former police officers for investigation of wage offences. The provision for employing these officers in 2006-07 is \$1.8 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)070**

Question Serial No.

1137

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

The Administration plans to set up a new job centre each in Yuen Long and North District to strengthen employment service in remote areas in 2006-07. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the breakdown of expenditure and the timeframe of the plan?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

In 2006-07, the estimated expenditure for setting up a new job centre each in Yuen Long and North District is \$5.2 million, which includes: (a) \$3.2 million for procurement of furniture and equipment and general expenses; and (b) \$2 million for personal emoluments for 17 new posts. The two new job centres are expected to come into operation in the latter half of the year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)071**

Question Serial No.

1138

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

Under this Programme, 1 post will be deleted in 2006-07 and some targets and indicators have been revised downwards when compared with 2004 and 2005. Please inform this Council why there is an increase of 4.9% instead of a drop in the estimated provision despite the above.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The 4.9% increase in provision, amounting to \$8.9 million, is mainly due to salary increments for staff and filling of vacancies.

The number of inspections to workplaces and inspections per field inspector has been revised downwards because the Department will launch more targeted operations to detect wage offences and combat illegal employment. The Department will further intensify efforts for intelligence collection and analysis.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)072**

Question Serial No.

1139

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

What are the manpower and expenditure currently involved in combating wage offences? Will the Administration increase the manpower and expenditure required for stepping up enforcement against such offences?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

At present, the Employment Claims Investigation Division and Labour Inspection Division of the Labour Department (LD) are involved in enforcement against wage offences. As these officers also undertake other enforcement duties, we do not have a separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in this regard. In the second half of 2005, LD employed seven former police officers to further strengthen its capacity in intelligence gathering and evidence collection on wage and other related offences. The estimated expenditure for employing these former police officers in 2005-06 is about \$0.8 million.

In 2006-07, LD will continue to employ the seven former police officers to reinforce its ability in investigation of wage offences and the financial provision is \$1.8 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)073**

Question Serial No.

2195

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

Please provide a breakdown, by contributing cause, of labour disputes and claims handled in 2005.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The breakdown of labour disputes handled by the Labour Relations Division of the Labour Department in 2005 by cause is as follows:

Cause	No. of labour disputes
Disputes involving principal contractor and subcontractor	107
Insolvency	61
Cessation of business	33
Non-payment of wages	6
Retrenchment	5
Layoff	4
Dismissal	3
Variation of terms of employment contract	2
Others	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>

The breakdown of labour claims handled by the Labour Relations Division of the Labour Department in 2005

by cause is as follows:

<b>Cause</b>	<b>No. of labour claims</b>
Termination of contract	11 220
Non-payment of wages	9 273
Non-payment of holiday pay/ annual leave pay/ rest day pay/ sickness allowance	1 995
Cessation of business	633
Insolvency	287
Retrenchment	270
Lay-off	132
Variation of terms of employment contract	64
Others	2 078
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 952</b>

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)074**

Question Serial No.

2196

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Labour Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Please provide details on the following for the past three years (i.e. 2003-04 to 2005-06):

- (a) a breakdown of the number of applications lodged by the winning parties to District Courts for enforcement of judgements in relation to the claims adjudicated by the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board (MECAB) by effective enforcement, non-attempt to enforce judgements and ineffective enforcement; and
- (b) the number of pieces of advice or warnings issued by the Administration in the event of non-compliance with an order made by the MECAB.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Repy:

- (a) The Minor Employment Claims Arbitration Board (MECAB) is empowered to determine employment claims involving in each case not more than 10 claimants for a sum of money not exceeding \$8,000 per claimant.

If a judgment debtor does not fully comply with an award/order made by the MECAB, the judgment creditor concerned may apply to the MECAB for a Certificate of Award/Order which can be registered in the District Court. Upon registration, such award becomes for all purposes a judgment of the District Court. The judgment creditor can then apply to the District Court for the issue of a Writ of Execution to enforce the judgment.

During 2003, 2004 and 2005, the MECAB issued 8,7 and 9 Certificates of Award/Order respectively. We have no information on whether the judgment creditors had applied to the District Court for the execution of the awards.

- (b) When the Labour Department receives complaints from employees about default payment by employers of awards made by the MECAB involving offences under the Employment Ordinance, it will conduct detailed investigations and take out prosecutions against the employers concerned if there is sufficient evidence. During 2003, 2004 and 2005, we secured 27, 23 and 18 such convictions respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
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 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)075**

Question Serial No.

2198

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

On relaxing the scheme rules for the Incentive Allowance Scheme for Local Domestic Helpers, please provide the following information:

- (a) the amount of allowance applied for working across districts or during unsocial hours and the number of applicants involved each year between 2003-04 and 2005-06;
- (b) the amount of the remaining provision as at the end of 2005;
- (c) details of the relaxation of the scheme rules; and
- (d) whether additional funding will be sought when the provision is exhausted? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

- (a) As at the end of 2005, 6 156 local domestic helpers (LDHs) have successfully applied for an allowance under the Special Incentive Allowance Scheme for LDHs. The requested breakdown is as follows.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Amount of allowance applied for working across districts (\$million) [Number of applicants involved]</b>	<b>Amount of allowance applied for working during unsocial hours (\$million) [Number of applicants involved]</b>
2003-04 <i>(the Scheme was launched in June 2003)</i>	1.3 [798]	2.8 [1 071]
2004-05	5.1 [1 201]	7.0 [1 250]
2005-06 <i>(as at December 2005)</i>	3.2 [799]	4.7 [1 037]

- (b) A sum of \$60 million has been earmarked for the Special Incentive Allowance Scheme for LDHs to benefit 8 000 LDHs. As at the end of 2005, about \$24 million was disbursed.

- (c) In December 2005, we extended the “unsocial hours” to cover the entire Saturday and Sunday. We also extended the claim period of all eligible LDH claimants from one year to two.
- (d) As at end-February 2006, there were still some 1 300 places left unfilled, whilst most of the LDHs taking part in the Scheme have yet to reach the time-bar of 24 months. We would keep in view the effectiveness and implementation experience of the Scheme as well as the feedback from participants before deciding on the way forward.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)076**

Question Serial No.

2199

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the Youth Self-employment Support Scheme launched in 2004, please inform this Council:

- (a) of the percentage of trainees who have completed the Scheme;
- (b) of the employment figures of trainees six months after completion of the Scheme; and for those who have become self-employed, the average amount of pay earned by each trainee per month; and
- (c) whether the Scheme will continue in 2006-07? If yes, what are the expenditure and manpower involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

- (a) Of the 1 475 trainees enrolled in the one-year Youth Self-employment Support Scheme (YSSS), 968 (66%) completed the Scheme.
- (b) Of the 954 trainees who could be contacted as at end-February 2006, 27.4% were engaged in self-employment while another 53.9% found jobs. We have no information on the earnings of the self-employed trainees.
- (c) In view of the improving employment market, we have decided not to continue with the YSSS in 2006-07.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
Development and Labour (Labour)/  
Commissioner for Labour

Date 9 March 2006



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
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INITIAL WRITTEN**

Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)077**

Question Serial No.

2200

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the number of placements secured through the employment services of the Labour Department for the past three years, please provide a breakdown of the figures by able-bodied/disabled job seekers, full/part-time jobs, age and earnings.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

During 2003-2005, the Labour Department (LD) secured 265 447 placements for able-bodied job-seekers. Of these, 79 319 were through direct referrals by the LD while the others were by job-seekers successfully applying to employers for jobs registered with the LD. The breakdown of the placements through direct referrals by full-time/part-time jobs, age and earnings is as follows:

**By full-time/part-time jobs**

<b>Full-time/Part-time</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Full-time	20 715	23 656	23 545
Part-time	4 459	3 542	3 402
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 174</b>	<b>27 198</b>	<b>26 947</b>

**By age group**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
15-19	1 632	2 104	1 667
20-29	7 936	8 646	7 114
30-39	4 514	4 272	4 157
40-49	7 233	7 685	8 450
50-59	3 568	4 118	4 998
60 or above	291	373	561
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 174</b>	<b>27 198</b>	<b>26 947</b>

**By earnings**

<b>Earnings</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
\$4,000 or below *	7 038	6 730	5 359
\$4,001 - \$5,000	3 927	4 525	4 514
\$5,001 - \$6,000	5 269	6 074	6 898
\$6,001 - \$7,000	3 651	4 600	4 692
\$7,001 - \$8,000	2 750	2 977	2 778
\$8,001 - \$9,000	1 104	879	1 090
\$9,001 - \$10,000	586	530	532
\$10,001 or above	849	883	1 084
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 174</b>	<b>27 198</b>	<b>26 947</b>

\* Mainly part-time or temporary jobs.

dition, the LD secured 7 292 placements for disabled job-seekers during 2003 to 2005. The breakdown of full-time/part-time jobs, age and earnings is set out below.

**By full-time/part-time jobs**

<b>Full-time/Part-time</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Full-time	1 419	1 592	1 756
Part-time	1 023	799	703
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 442</b>	<b>2 391</b>	<b>2 459</b>

**By age group**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
15-19	248	155	141
20-29	1 192	1 131	1 161
30-39	449	540	570
40-49	395	403	445
50-59	142	153	130
60 or above	16	9	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 442</b>	<b>2 391</b>	<b>2 459</b>

**By earnings**

<b>Earnings</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Under \$3,000*	1 301	1 197	1 022
\$3,000 - \$3,999	322	334	334
\$4,000 - \$4,999	362	363	485
\$5,000 - \$5,999	229	272	313
\$6,000 - \$6,999	102	107	194
\$7,000 - \$7,999	68	77	89
\$8,000 - \$8,999	45	34	16
\$9,000 or above	13	7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 442</b>	<b>2 391</b>	<b>2 459</b>

\* Mainly part-time or temporary jobs.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Economic  
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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)078**

Question Serial No.

2201

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the number of placements secured under the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme for the past three years, please provide a breakdown of the figures by full- time/part-time jobs and earnings.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The Programme Year of the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme starts from early August each year and lasts 12 months. During the past three Programme Years, the Labour Department secured a total of 22 982 placements under the Scheme. All trainees were engaged in full-time jobs. A breakdown by monthly wages for each programme year is as follows –

Monthly Wages	Number of Placements		
	2002/03 Programme Year	2003/04 Programme Year	2004/05 Programme Year
Below \$5,000	3 888	5 026	4 373
\$5,000 - \$5,999	2 102	2 125	3 223
\$6,000 or above	610	519	1 116
Total	6 600	7 670	8 712

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)079**

Question Serial No.

2202

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the number of placements secured under the Re-employment Training Programme for the Middle-aged for the past three years, please provide a breakdown, in chronological order, of the figures by full/part-time jobs and earnings.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The Re-employment Training Programme for the Middle-aged was launched in May 2003. Up to end-2005, there were altogether 18 040 placements, which were all full-time employment. A breakdown by monthly wage of these placements in the past three years is as follows:

<b>Monthly wage</b>	<b>2003 (since May)</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Below \$5,000	850	2 391	1 288
\$5,000 - \$6,999	876	2 932	5 711
\$7,000 or above	322	1 235	2 435
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 048</b>	<b>6 558</b>	<b>9 434</b>

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)080**

Question Serial No.

2203

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

Regarding the number of placements secured under the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme, please provide a breakdown of the figures by full/part-time jobs and earnings.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The Work Orientation and Placement Scheme was launched in April 2005. As at end-February 2006, altogether 279 disabled job-seekers were placed under the Scheme. The breakdown by full time/part time jobs and monthly wages is set out below.

(a) By full-time/part-time jobs

	<b>Number of Placements</b>
Full-time Jobs	240
Part-time Jobs	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>

(b) By monthly wages

<b>Monthly Wages</b>	<b>Number of Placements</b>
Under \$3,000*	53
\$3,000 - \$3,999	32
\$4,000 - \$4,999	100
\$5,000 - \$5,999	57
\$6,000 - \$6,999	26
\$7,000 - \$7,999	8
\$8,000 - \$8,999	2
\$9,000 or above	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>

\* Mainly part-time jobs

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)081**

Question Serial No.

2204

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Employment Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the number of placements secured under the Work Trial Scheme, please provide a breakdown of the figures by full/part-time job and earnings.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

As at end-February 2006, 401 job-seekers were placed into work trials. Of the 228 participants who had completed the work trial, 169 (or 74%) were offered employment and 141 of them accepted the offers. Of these 141 participants, 60% were employed in jobs with monthly wages between \$5,000 and \$5,999, 20% with wages below \$5,000, and the remaining 20% with wages of \$6,000 and above. About 98% of the post-trial employment were full-time jobs.

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)082**

Question Serial No.

2205

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Please provide details on the following for the past three years (i.e. 2003-04 to 2005-06):

- (a) the number of inspections to workplaces of government service contractors;
- (b) the numbers of warnings issued and prosecutions taken against these contractors; and
- (c) the nature of these warnings and prosecutions.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The figures concerning enforcement actions of the Labour Department against government service contractors are provided below:

- (a) The number of inspections conducted to the workplaces of government service contractors in 2003, 2004 and 2005 was 513, 604 and 786 respectively.
- (b) We gave warnings to offending employers even where there was no prosecution witness. The number of warnings issued to government service contractors in 2003, 2004 and 2005 was 4, 6 and 25 respectively. The respective figures for convicted summons against government service contractors were 4, 4 and 73.
- (c) The warnings and convictions were mainly for late payment/underpayment of wages, unlawful deduction of wages, non-grant of statutory holidays and failure to grant sufficient rest days.

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)083**

Question Serial No.

2296

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

The matters requiring special attention in 2006-07 include the setting up of a new occupational health clinic in North District. In this regard, what are the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

The total cost of setting up the new occupational health clinic is estimated to be \$3.1 million and the annual operational cost \$3.2 million. The consultations will be provided by the department's existing team of nine occupational health officers in the clinical stream in addition to their other duties. Nursing and supporting staff of the new clinic, including one Nursing Officer, three Registered Nurses, one Assistant Clerical Officer, one Clerical Assistant and one Workman II will be provided through internal redeployment.

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)084**

Question Serial No.

2297

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

As occupational diseases are becoming increasingly serious nowadays, is it possible to effectively meet the service demand just by setting up an additional occupational health clinic?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

We expect that the increased demand for occupational health service could be effectively met by the new occupational health clinic in North District which will come on stream in the second half of 2006. Nevertheless, we will closely monitor the situation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)085**

Question Serial No.

2298

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Please provide a breakdown, by industry and work type, of occupational accidents which occurred in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

The occupational accident statistics for the full year of 2005 will not be available until mid-April this year. However, in the first three quarters of 2005, there were 33 115 occupational accidents. As for 2004, there was a total of 44 025 occupational accidents. The breakdown of occupational accidents in 2004 and the first three quarters of 2005 by major economic activities is shown in the **Table** below. We do not compile a separate breakdown of the figures by work type.

**Table: Occupational Accidents of All Economic Activities in 2004 and 1st Three Quarters of 2005**

Major Economic Activity	2004		1st Three Quarters of 2005	
	No. of Accidents	% of Total	No. of Accidents	% of Total
Manufacturing Industry	4 258	9.7%	3 097	9.4%
Construction Industry	3 918	8.9%	2 666	8.1%
Catering Industry	9 799	22.2%	7 013	21.2%
Wholesale Trade	737	1.7%	605	1.8%
Retail Trade	2 766	6.3%	2 066	6.2%
Hotels and Boarding Houses	922	2.1%	773	2.3%
Transport & Related Services	4 311	9.8%	3 431	10.4%
Financial Institutions	208	0.5%	139	0.4%
Business Services (including Import & Export Trade)	4 818	10.9%	3 784	11.4%
Education Services	950	2.2%	766	2.3%
Medical, Dental & Other Health Services	2 190	5.0%	1 727	5.2%
Other Economic Activities	9 148	20.7%	7 048	21.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44 025</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>33 115</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)086**

Question Serial No.

2299

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Safety and Health at Work

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Please provide details on the concrete plan drawn up by the Administration to reduce occupational accidents, having regard to the trend of the accidents.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

Occupational accident figures of 2004 and the first three quarters of 2005 indicate that Hong Kong's occupational safety performance has been improving steadily. However, the safety problems of the construction and catering industries remain matters of concern. The construction industry still had the highest number of fatalities and accident rate, while the catering industry ranked top among all industries in terms of the number of accidents. The Labour Department (LD) has been addressing the safety problems of these two industries, as a matter of priority, through enforcement, publicity and promotion.

On enforcement, LD will continue to step up inspections, including launching campaign operations, to construction sites and catering establishments to achieve improvements in the standard of safety and health. LD will pay particular attention to building repair and maintenance works which are of high risk.

On promotion and publicity, LD will launch two large-scale publicity campaigns in 2006-07 to enhance the safety awareness of employers and employees in the construction and catering industries. They will be organised in collaboration with the Occupational Safety and Health Council and key stakeholders in the two industries, including major trade associations, employee unions, related organisations and other government departments concerned. The two publicity campaigns will both feature a territory-wide competition on occupational safety and health performance and a variety of promotional activities.

LD will also promote safety in repair and maintenance works, especially in the use of truss-out scaffolds, through roving exhibitions, Announcements of Public Interest on television and radio, radio programmes, video broadcast on RoadShow, Firstvision and publication of accident casebooks.

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)087**

Question Serial No.

2310

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the prosecutions taken by the Labour Department under this Programme each year, please provide details on the figures, results of such prosecutions and penalties by industry and reason(s) for prosecutions over the past two years, i.e. 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

The number of prosecutions taken under Programme 4 by the Labour Department (LD) in 2004 and 2005 by industries and results are given below:

Industries	2004		2005	
	Prosecutions Taken	Prosecutions Convicted	Prosecutions Taken	Prosecutions Convicted
Catering	1491	1260	1082	800
Manufacturing	257	219	202	165
Construction	250	181	334	193
Import/Export	279	250	358	301
Retail/Wholesale	755	672	526	448
Hotel	15	2	1	1
Transport, Storage & Communication	145	106	201	155
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	116	97	158	133
Community & Personal Services	371	317	560	482
Others	104	60	109	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 783</b>	<b>3 164</b>	<b>3 531</b>	<b>2 751</b>

In 2005, the LD took out 908, 1 303 and 1 074 prosecutions against wage offences, holiday offences and failure to take out employees' compensation insurance resulting in 587, 965 and 1 025 convictions respectively. In 2004, the corresponding prosecutions taken were 697, 1 745 and 987 resulting in 504, 1 489 and 929 convictions respectively.

In 2005, the highest fine imposed in a wage offence case was \$120,000 and the highest custody imposed was 2 months' imprisonment. In 2004, the highest fine imposed in a wage offence case was \$100,000 and no imprisonment sentence was recorded. For holiday offence cases, the highest fine imposed was \$84,000 in 2005 and \$32,000 in 2004. For employees' compensation insurance cases, the highest fine imposed was \$10,000 for both 2005 and 2004.

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)088**

Question Serial No.

2311

Head: 90 – Labour Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (4) Employee Rights and Benefits

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

The Administration indicates that it has taken vigorous enforcement against wage offences. However, there was no increase in the number of prosecutions in 2005-06 when compared with 2004-05. What is the reason for this?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

In 2005, the Labour Department's vigorous enforcement against wage offences resulted in 908 prosecutions, an increase of 30.3% compared to 2004. The number of prosecutions referred to in the estimates covers a wide range of offences including wage offences, holiday offences, failure to take out employees' compensation insurance, etc. The decrease of 6.7% in the total number of prosecutions in 2005 was due to increased public awareness and improved compliance with the other statutory provisions under the labour law.

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Reply Serial No.

**EDLB(L)089**

Question Serial No.

1186

Head: 255 – Interest-free loans to employees injured at work and dependants of employees who die as a result of work-related accidents      Subhead(No. & title): 101

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour) /Commissioner for Labour

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question :

Regarding the loans to employees injured at work and dependants of employees who die as a result of work-related accidents, please provide figures on the loan payment amount and number of cases involved each year in the past 3 years, i.e. in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Has the Administration reviewed whether publicity was adequate to ensure all qualified dependants are aware of the loan scheme and lodge applications accordingly? As the actual expenditure on the loans as at 31 March 2005 only accounted for 10% of the approved commitment, has the Administration reviewed the scheme and considered raising the maximum loan amount for each application?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

As at the end of February 2006, the number of applications approved under the Loan Scheme for Employees Injured at Work and Dependants of Deceased Employees and the loan amount approved in the financial years of 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are tabulated below:

Financial Years	Number of Applications Approved	Loan Amount Approved
2003-04	27	\$327,545
2004-05	14	\$180,000
2005-06	21	\$311,021

The Labour Department (LD) introduces the scheme to each and every eligible injured employee and family member of deceased employee who suffer hardship whilst awaiting settlement of their compensation claims. Each branch office of the Employees Compensation Division of LD has posted information on the scheme on its display board and placed leaflets on its publication rack for the reference of injured employees and family members. The present channels of disseminating information on the scheme are considered appropriate.

Currently, the maximum amount of loan that can be granted to an applicant in each case is \$15,000. As the interest-free loan aims to provide quick financial relief, the present loan amount is generally considered adequate.

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