

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(3) 373/14-15

Paper for the House Committee meeting of 23 January 2015

Questions scheduled for the Legislative Council meeting of 28 January 2015

Questions by:

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|------|--|-------------------------------|
| (1) | Hon James TIEN | (Oral reply) |
| (2) | Hon LEUNG Che-cheung | (Oral reply) |
| (3) | Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan | (Oral reply) |
| (4) | Hon SIN Chung-kai | (Oral reply) |
| (5) | Hon LEE Cheuk-yan | (Oral reply) |
| (6) | Hon CHAN Han-pan | (Oral reply)(New question) |
| | <i>(Replacing his previous question)</i> | |
| (7) | Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG | (Written reply) |
| (8) | Hon Steven HO | (Written reply) |
| (9) | Hon CHAN Chi-chuen | (Written reply) |
| (10) | Hon Albert HO | (Written reply) |
| (11) | Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan | (Written reply) |
| (12) | Hon Albert CHAN | (Written reply) |
| (13) | Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki | (Written reply) |
| (14) | Hon Frederick FUNG | (Written reply) |
| (15) | Hon Mrs Regina IP | (Written reply) |
| (16) | Dr Hon Helena WONG | (Written reply) |
| (17) | Hon WONG Kwok-hing | (Written reply) |
| (18) | Hon Emily LAU | (Written reply) |
| (19) | Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai | (Written reply)(New question) |
| | <i>(Replacing his previous question)</i> | |
| (20) | Hon TANG Ka-piu | (Written reply) |
| (21) | Hon James TO | (Written reply)(New question) |
| | <i>(Replacing his previous question)</i> | |
| (22) | Hon NG Leung-sing | (Written reply) |

註 :

NOTE :

議員將採用這種語言提出質詢

Member will ask the question in this language

The work of the Urban Renewal Authority

(6) Hon CHAN Han-pan (Oral Reply)

At its inception in 2001, the Urban Renewal Authority (“URA”) was mainly tasked with urban renewal and building rehabilitation. It operates on a self-financing basis. In recent years, the Government has entrusted URA with more and more tasks, including the launch of the “Operation Building Bright” in 2012 to provide subsidies and technical support to the owners of dilapidated private buildings, as well as taking over all the building rehabilitation work from the Hong Kong Housing Society (“HKHS”) within a short period of time. Moreover, in the Policy Address recently delivered by him, the Chief Executive has proposed that URA be invited to assist in developing subsidized-sale flats. However, URA predicted last year that it would experience budgetary constraints. Some members of the public worry that URA may not have sufficient resources and manpower to cope with the additional work. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it will make further capital injections into URA to ensure that URA has sufficient funds to operate and undertake the additional work; if it will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) whether it has assessed if the continued expansion of URA’s scope of work by the Government will make URA focus only on certain work while neglecting other work, thus slowing down the pace of redevelopment of old buildings and old districts; and what measures are in place to ensure the main work of URA will not be affected; and
- (3) whether it knows if URA has estimated the additional manpower and expenditure needed for taking over the building rehabilitation work from HKHS in order to ensure that the quality of service can be maintained; if URA has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Measures to address the challenges brought by demographic changes

(19) Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai (Written Reply)

In his 2015 Policy Address, the Chief Executive put forward measures to unleash the potential of local labour force, as well as recruit talent and professionals from outside Hong Kong etc., in order to address the challenges brought by demographic changes. Such measures include the extension of the retirement ages of new recruits for the civilian grades and the disciplined services to 65 and 60 respectively as from the middle of this year. However, the extension of the employment of serving civil servants beyond retirement age will be subject to operational needs, succession planning and recruitment situation of departments. Moreover, the Government suspends the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (“CIES”) with immediate effect. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has assessed how far the local labour force can be unleashed by extending the retirement age of civil servants; if it has assessed, of the details and set out the relevant figures for each of the next 10 years; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) of the number, as estimated by the authorities, of serving civil servants who will be willing to have their retirement age extended, with a breakdown by department;
- (3) whether it has assessed how internal promotion opportunities in government departments will be affected by the extension of the retirement age of civil servants, and whether this measure will dampen people’s desire to join the Government’s work force; if it has assessed, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (4) whether it has assessed which government departments will make arrangements for the extension of the retirement age of serving civil servants due to operational needs, succession planning or not being able to recruit the manpower required, as well as of the respective grades and numbers of such civil servants; if it has assessed, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (5) of the impact, as estimated by the authorities, on the Government’s expenditure brought by the extension of the retirement age of civil servants, including the annual additional expenses to be incurred by various departments in future for civil service remunerations and fringe benefits such as medical, housing and retirement protection benefits;
- (6) whether it has assessed the impact of the extension of the retirement age of civil servants on the turnover of civil servant quarters, including whether the average waiting time of staff of various disciplined services for allocation of quarters will be longer; if it has assessed, of the details;

- (7) given that the staff of disciplined services have to meet specific requirements for physical fitness in order to cope with the operational needs, whether it has assessed the impacts of the extension of the retirement age of disciplined services on the quality of their service; if it has assessed, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (8) of the number of meetings held by the Government with civil servant groups and disciplined services unions on the proposal to extend the retirement age of civil servants, as well as the Government's follow-up actions and responses;
- (9) of the average annual economic gains brought about by CIES to Hong Kong since its implementation;
- (10) of the total investment in Hong Kong made by persons permitted to reside in Hong Kong under CIES in the past decade, with a breakdown by country/place of origin of such persons;
- (11) whether it has compiled statistics on the number of enterprises which have benefited from the investment projects under CIES; whether it has assessed if the suspension of the scheme will affect the employment rate and types of jobs available in Hong Kong, as well as whether the suspension will dampen overseas investors' desire to invest in Hong Kong;
- (12) why the authorities had not considered enhancing CIES but decided to suspend it, and whether the reasons include that the scheme was ineffective in the past;
- (13) whether it has assessed the annual economic losses to Hong Kong as a result of the suspension of CIES, and the respective annual decreases in the amounts of overseas and mainland capital investments in Hong Kong in the coming five years; if it has assessed, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (14) of the new specific plans in place for recruiting talent and professionals from outside Hong Kong who meet the needs of Hong Kong's economy and long-term development, as well as the industries which will mainly be covered by the relevant measures?

Light pollution caused by sunlight reflected by glass curtain walls

(21) Hon James TO (Written Reply)

It has been reported that some motorists have complained that at dusk, the glass curtain walls of the International Finance Centre reflect sunlight from a low angle right in front of them, making them unable to keep their eyes open and thus affecting road safety. Some residents of the Yau Tsim Mong District have also complained that the glass curtain walls of the International Commerce Centre reflect sunlight into their homes, affecting their daily lives. Regarding light pollution caused by sunlight reflected by glass curtain walls of buildings, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of complaints received by various government departments in the past five years about light pollution caused by glass curtain walls of buildings, broken down by government department and the District Council district in which the building is situated, together with the names of the buildings involved; among the complaints, of the numbers of those made by residents and motorists respectively;
- (2) besides the Environmental Protection Department, whether other government departments are responsible for handling and following up such kind of light pollution complaints; and
- (3) whether the government departments concerned will take follow-up actions after receiving such kind of complaints; if they will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?