

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(3) 297/15-16

**Paper for the House Committee meeting  
of 15 January 2016**

**Questions scheduled for the  
Legislative Council meeting of 20 January 2016**

Questions by:

- |      |   |                               |
|------|---|-------------------------------|
| (1)  | Hon KWOK Wai-keung<br><i>(Replacing his previous question)</i>  | (Oral reply)(New question)    |
| (2)  | Hon SIN Chung-kai   | (Oral reply)                  |
| (3)  | Hon Christopher CHEUNG  | (Oral reply)                  |
| (4)  | Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  | (Oral reply)                  |
| (5)  | Hon Emily LAU   | (Oral reply)                  |
| (6)  | Hon Frankie YICK  | (Oral reply)                  |
| (7)  | Hon Martin LIAO   | (Written reply)               |
| (8)  | Hon CHAN Kam-lam  | (Written reply)               |
| (9)  | Hon Tommy CHEUNG  | (Written reply)               |
| (10) | Hon Andrew LEUNG  | (Written reply)               |
| (11) | Hon Mrs Regina IP   | (Written reply)               |
| (12) | Dr Hon Helena WONG  | (Written reply)               |
| (13) | Hon Starry LEE  | (Written reply)               |
| (14) | Hon NG Leung-sing   | (Written reply)               |
| (15) | Hon WONG Kwok-kin   | (Written reply)               |
| (16) | Hon Albert CHAN   | (Written reply)               |
| (17) | Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG  | (Written reply)               |
| (18) | Hon Jeffrey LAM   | (Written reply)               |
| (19) | Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT   | (Written reply)               |
| (20) | Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki   | (Written reply)               |
| (21) | Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che<br><i>(Replacing his previous question)</i> | (Written reply)(New question) |
| (22) | Hon TANG Ka-piu   | (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

## Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund

(1) Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Oral reply)

At present, when a winding-up or bankruptcy petition has been filed with the Court against an employer, the employee(s) concerned may apply for ex-gratia payments from the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund (“PWIF”) to cover the outstanding wages, the pay for untaken annual leave, the pay for untaken statutory holidays, wages in lieu of notice, severance payments, etc. PWIF is administered by the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund Board (“the Board”) and the Labour Department is responsible for handling and vetting the relevant applications. In August last year, a furniture and electrical appliance chain store suddenly closed down, rendering around 400 employees being owed wages, wages in lieu of notice and severance payments. Although such employees were granted ex-gratia payments by PWIF in the end, some of them have pointed out that they have encountered numerous obstacles in applying for ex-gratia payments, there are problems about the application procedures and calculation methods of ex-gratia payments, and the coverage of PWIF is inadequate. These problems have undermined the level of protection available to employees under PWIF. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) given that when there are disputes between the employees and the companies in liquidation over the amounts owed to the employees, the amounts have to be determined by the Labour Tribunal (“LT”), but PWIF does not always calculate the amounts of ex-gratia payments payable to the employees concerned according to LT’s determination, whether the authorities will review if the procedure requiring LT to determine the amounts owed to employees is necessary;
- (2) given that the payment ceilings of a number of ex-gratia payment items under PWIF have not been adjusted for years (for example, it has been over 20 years since the ceiling of wages in lieu of notice was increased to \$22,500 in 1995 but no further adjustment has been made), whether it knows why the Board has not reviewed the levels of the payment ceilings for years, and whether the Board will conduct a review and put forward relevant adjustment proposals expeditiously; if the Board will not, of the reasons for that; and
- (3) given that when this Council scrutinized the Protection of Wages on Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2011, the authorities indicated that the Board had undertaken to review the coverage of PWIF, of the details and progress of the review, and when the authorities will submit the relevant review report to the Labour Advisory Board and the Panel on Manpower of this Council?

## Statistics in relation to retirement protection

(21) Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Written reply)

The Government is conducting a public consultation exercise on the future retirement protection system. The fourth pillar of the retirement protection framework, put forward by the World Bank and mentioned in the consultation document, comprises items like “personal assets” (e.g. owner-occupied properties) and “family support” (e.g. financial support from descendants). Regarding statistics on these two items, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of elderly singletons aged 65 or above in each of the past three financial years, broken down by the value of assets (excluding owner-occupied properties) they held (set out in Table 1);

(Table 1)

Financial year	No. of elderly singletons holding assets with a value within the following range (thousand dollars)												
	80 or below	Over 80 to 100	Over 100 to 120	Over 120 to 150	Over 150 to 180	Over 180 to 210	Over 210 to 1,000	Over 1,000 to 2,000	Over 2,000 to 3,000	Over 3,000 to 4,000	Over 4,000 to 5,000	Over 5,000	
2012-2013													
2013-2014													
2014-2015													

- (2) of the number of elderly couples aged 65 or above in each of the past three financial years, broken down by the value of assets (excluding owner-occupied properties) they held (set out in Table 2);

(Table 2)

Financial year	No. of elderly couples holding assets with a value within the following range (thousand dollars)												
	125 or below	Over 125 to 150	Over 150 to 210	Over 210 to 240	Over 240 to 270	Over 270 to 318	Over 318 to 1,000	Over 1,000 to 2,000	Over 2,000 to 3,000	Over 3,000 to 4,000	Over 4,000 to 5,000	Over 5,000	
2012-2013													
2013-2014													
2014-2015													

- (3) of the number of elderly households with all members aged 65 or above and holding owner-occupied properties in each of the past three financial years, broken down by household size and appraised property value (set out in Table 3); and

(Table 3)

Financial year	Household size	Appraised value of owner-occupied properties (thousand dollars)				
		2,000 or below	Over 2,000 to 3,000	Over 3,000 to 4,000	Over 4,000 to 5,000	Over 5,000
2012-2013	One-person					
	Two-person					
	Three-person or above					
2013-2014	One-person					
	Two-person					
	Three-person or above					
2014-2015	One-person					
	Two-person					
	Three-person or above					

- (4) of the number of persons required to pay salaries tax who made claims for allowances for maintaining parents or grandparents aged 65 or above in each of the past three years of assessment, as well as the total amount of allowances granted (and set out a breakdown in Tables 4 and 5 by number of dependents involved)?

(Table 4)

Year of assessment		No. of dependent parents			
		1	2	3	4
2012-2013	No. of claimants				
	Total amount of allowances granted				
2013-2014	No. of claimants				
	Total amount of allowances granted				
2014-2015	No. of claimants				
	Total amount of allowances granted				

(Table 5)

Year of assessment		No. of dependent grandparents			
		1	2	3	4
2012-2013	No. of claimants				
	Total amount of allowances granted				
2013-2014	No. of claimants				
	Total amount of allowances granted				
2014-2015	No. of claimants				
	Total amount of allowances granted				