

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 146

Question Serial No.

0038

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

- (a) The Environment and Food Bureau indicates that it will strengthen enforcement action against littering, unlicensed food premises, improper handling of food and operation of illegal slaughterhouses. What are the actual measures to strengthen the enforcement action?
- (b) EFB indicates that it will improve efficiency in handling complaints relating to environmental hygiene and processing of licence applications. The two former Municipal Councils both made performance pledges in this regard. If the Government is to improve its service in these 2 areas, what performance pledges will be set to higher standards and what will these standards be?

Asked by: Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply:

- (a) In addition to routine enforcement action, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) launched special operations against illegal slaughterhouses and unlicensed food business. Since January 2000, 14 operations against illegal slaughterhouses and two territory-wide operations against unlicensed and unhygienic food premises have been carried out. FEHD is strengthening training for frontline staff in enforcing anti-littering legislation.

- (b) FEHD is reviewing the procedures for handling complaints on environmental nuisance to improve its efficiency and effectiveness in dealing with such cases. The Department has set up an inter-departmental working group to consider measures to simplify and expedite the issue of restaurant licences. Since 1 January 2000, the Department has shortened the time to issue letters of requirements for provisional licences by two weeks and full licences by one week and reduced the time for conducting final verification inspection by two working days. In 2000-01, the Department will assign a case manager to handle enquiries and co-ordinate departmental action on each application. The Department's performance pledges in these two areas will be examined on completion of the reviews.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 130

Question Serial No.

0053

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 154 Government Secretariat : Subhead : 002 Allowances
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme : Food Supply and Food Safety, Environmental Hygiene,
Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

- Question : (a) As shown in the Estimates, there is a 595.7% increase in the expenditure on allowances. What are the reasons for such an increase?
- (b) Of the expenditure on allowances, how much is pertinent to standard allowances and how much to non-standard allowances?
- (c) Of the expenditure on non-standard allowances, what is the percentage pertaining to overtime allowances?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Wing-chan

- Reply : (a) The increase is due to the full year provision for existing staff and staff filling new posts to be created in 2000-01. The Environment and Food Bureau (EFB) was formed on 1 January 2000 following the re-organization of municipal services. The revised estimate for 1999-2000 only represents the provision for three months from 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.
- (b) The draft estimate of \$2,087,000 under Subhead 002 Allowances is made up of \$2,001,000 for standard allowances and \$86,000 for non-standard allowance. Standard allowances cover acting allowance, overtime allowance and typhoon allowance. Non-standard allowance covers consolidated overtime allowance for a Chauffeur in EFB.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 132

Question Serial No.

0409

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 154 Government Secretariat : Environment and Food Bureau

Programme : (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In programme 3, it is stated that, the Bureau will introduce in 2000-01 landfill charges and revise other environmental charges to provide economic incentive to avoid pollution. Please inform this Council of :

- (a) what items are included in “other environmental charges”?
- (b) what are the specific measures to implement landfill charges?
- (c) what is the timetable for revising these charges?
- (d) what is the anticipated effectiveness of these initiatives in reducing pollution?
- (e) what is the amount of resources earmarked for these initiatives?

Asked by : Hon Cheung Man-kwong

Reply :

- (a) The “other environmental charges” refer to the various fees and charges relating to the use of the waste disposal and treatment facilities, such as the chemical waste disposal charges and trade effluent surcharges. They also include fees for licences and permits under different environmental legislation.
- (b) The specific measure required to implement landfill charges is the enactment of a charging Regulation.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB17

Question Serial No.

0434

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 39 Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please list out in details, the ranks, duties and expenses of the
38 posts created in 2000-2001.

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply : The 38 posts to be created in 2000-01 are :

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Annual Salaries</u> \$
Engineer	1	532,740-885,780
Inspector of Works	1	369,420-557,820
Assistant Inspector of Works	1	217,680-352,800
Senior Electronic Inspector	2	575,640-660,000
Electronic Inspector	1	369,420-557,820
Senior Mechanical Inspector	1	575,640-660,000
Assistant Mechanical Inspector	1	217,680-352,800
Chief Technical Officer	1	690,300-785,880
Technical Officer	2	193,140-336,900
Engineering Laboratory Technician II	1	181,920-321,660
Works Supervisor I	2	217,680-252,120
Works Supervisor II	7	171,600-205,200
Senior Artisan	10	171,600-181,920
Artisan	2	141,840-161,100
Clerical Officer	1	252,120-321,660
Clerical Assistant	1	103,500-181,920
Workman I	1	124,440-134,760
Workman II	2	117,420-122,100
	<u>38</u>	

The additional posts are mainly recurrent consequences of capital works projects approved by the Public Works Sub-Committee/Finance Committee. They will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of new sewage facilities and installations to be commissioned in 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 157

Question Serial No.

0436

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme:

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

It is stated in the Estimate that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will promote the consideration of key environmental implications of major policies or strategies at the earliest possible stage, whereas last year's Policy Address stated that the setting up of a Sustainable Development Unit is to monitor the impact of major new policy proposals on sustainable development. Concerning the above areas, what are the resources required by the Sustainable Development Unit and what are the duties and division of work in relation to EPD? Is there any overlapping of work?

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

The Sustainable Development Unit is intended to assist the administration achieve greater integration of economic, social and environmental issues in the policy making process. \$18 million has been earmarked under Head 106 Miscellaneous Services Subhead 251 Additional commitments – for setting up the unit during 2000-01. EPD will be responsible for providing updated information for the environmental indicators and databases. The Sustainable Development Unit will be responsible for integrating these with the economic, social and other indicators and data to be used by Policy Bureaux in evaluating the potential impacts of policy proposals. Irrespective of the setting up of a Sustainable Development Unit, EPD will still be required to ensure the carrying out of environmental impact assessment studies on designated projects when they move from the conceptual to the detailed planning stage.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 158

Question Serial No.

0454

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme:

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

With regard to the Administration's proposal to set up a Council for sustainable development, please let me know

- (1) What is the progress of the programme for 2000-01?
- (2) What are the time table, objectives and specific description of the work?
- (3) How much in terms of resources are to be deployed?

Asked by : Hon SZETO Wah

- (1) Planning for the establishment of a Council for Sustainable Development is underway.
- (2) The timetable is to establish the Council during the new financial year. The objective is to have a body giving expert advice to the Chief Executive on measures that need to be considered in order to achieve more sustainable development for Hong Kong, and to promote public education on sustainable development. The work involves consideration of the composition and functioning of the Council.
- (3) \$18M has been earmarked under Head 106 Miscellaneous Services Subhead 251 Additional commitments for the establishment of a Sustainable Development Unit which, inter alia, will provide supporting services to the proposed Council.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 133

Question Serial No.

0521

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 154 Government Secretariat : Subhead :
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please compare the actual/estimated expenditures on environmental hygiene incurred by the former USD & RSD in 1999 and those by the newly established Environment and Food Bureau in the coming year.

Asked by : Hon Michael HO Mun-ka

Reply :

The Environment and Food Bureau (EFB) is a policy bureau while the former USD and RSD were the executive arms of the former Provisional Urban Council and Provisional Regional Council. It is not appropriate to compare their work and expenditure. The proposed provision for the policy area "Environmental Hygiene" under the Bureau for 2000-01 is \$16.1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 134

Question Serial No.

0522

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 154 Government Secretariat : Subhead :
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please compare the actual/estimated expenditures on environmental hygiene incurred by the Department of Health in 1999-2000 and those by the Environment and Food Bureau in the coming year.

Asked by : Hon Michael HO Mun-ka

Reply :

The Environment and Food Bureau (EFB) is responsible for the policy area of "Environmental Hygiene" with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department as the principal executive department. The Department of Health was not involved in providing direct services on environmental hygiene in 1999-2000. The proposed provision for the policy area "Environmental Hygiene" under the Bureau for 2000-01 is \$16.1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB18

Question Serial No.

0635

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 39 Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please list the titles, ranks and duties of the 38 posts created under Programme (2).

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The 38 posts to be created in 2000-01 are :

- 1 Engineer
- 1 Inspector of Works
- 1 Assistant Inspector of Works
- 2 Senior Electronic Inspectors
- 1 Electronic Inspector
- 1 Senior Mechanical Inspector
- 1 Assistant Mechanical Inspector
- 1 Chief Technical Officer
- 2 Technical Officers
- 1 Engineering Laboratory Technician II
- 2 Works Supervisors I
- 7 Works Supervisors II
- 10 Senior Artisans
- 2 Artisans
- 1 Clerical Officer
- 1 Clerical Assistant
- 1 Workman I
- 2 Workmen II

38

The additional posts are mainly recurrent consequences of capital works projects approved by the Public Works Sub-Committee/Finance Committee. They will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of new sewage facilities and installations to be commissioned in 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB19

Question Serial No.

0636

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 39 Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please give a detailed account of the study on the corrosion effect due to increase in sewage salinity. When will the study commence? When will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Sea water flushing was introduced to Sha Tin and Tai Po areas in 1995 and 1996 respectively amongst other areas in the territory. The change to sea water flushing has caused serious metal corrosion problems for equipment at Tai Po and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works due to the high corrosion effect of the sea water content in the sewage. As a result, maintenance work at these two sewage treatment works has increased due to more frequent repair and equipment replacement for the corroded units.

The Drainage Services Department will conduct a study using mainly in-house resources on the corrosion effect due to increase in sewage salinity with the following objectives:-

- To estimate the remaining service life for the existing metal structure/equipment in contact with sewage;
- To examine the suitability of other materials under corrosive medium;
- To devise protective methods for existing metal structures; and
- To develop early warning systems for timely replacement of critical parts.

It is planned to commence the study in April 2000 for completion by end 2000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB20

Question Serial No.

0637

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 39 Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In relation to matters requiring special attention in 2000-01, please advise the latest status of the construction of sewage tunnels under Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme (SSDS) Stage I and the current estimated completion time of the works.

Asked by : Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP

Reply : To date, 19.2 km (81%) of the 23.6 km of sewage collection tunnels being constructed under Stage I of the SSDS have been excavated. Two tunnels have been bored through and are being lined. The excavation of the remaining 4.4 km is expected to be completed this year. The concrete lining and finishing work would then be carried out so as to complete the whole sewage tunnel system in 2001.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 138

Question Serial No.

0670

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In view of the fact that the policy area of environment has been transferred to the Environment and Food Bureau, please advise what administrative arrangements are there to ensure effective co-ordination between planning and environment which are closely-related. Do these arrangements involve additional financial requirements?

Asked by : Hon HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP

Reply :

The transfer of the environment division from the then Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau to the Environment and Food Bureau (EFB) has not involved any change in arrangements for co-ordination of environmental and planning issues at the departmental level. At the policy co-ordination level, the Secretary for the Environment and Food and the Secretary for Planning and Lands meet informally every month to discuss matters of mutual concern. In addition, both the Deputy Secretary responsible for the environment division and the Director of Environmental Protection remain members of the Committee on Planning and Land Development chaired by the Secretary for Planning and Lands. Information technology also allows easy communication and sharing of information between the EFB and the Planning and Lands Bureau. No additional financial commitments arise from these arrangements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 164

Question Serial No.

0820

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat : Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : It is mentioned that the Administration will increase cooperation with the Guangdong authorities in areas of mutual concern, including cross-boundary air pollution, water quality and environmental assessment. Will the Administration inform this Council the progress in this respect, the target to be achieved in 2000 and financial resources allocated to achieve this?

Asked by : The Hon. Howard Young

Reply :

Progress of Co-operation with the Guangdong Province

We have been working closely with the Guangdong authorities to tackle environment problems of mutual concern. Significant steps include:

- (a) Action plans to protect the environment of Deep Bay and Mirs Bay. Half-yearly audits are being carried out to ensure that action items are being properly implemented.
- (b) A joint study on air quality of the Pearl River Delta Region (PRDR) commenced in mid 1999 for completion in early 2001.
- (c) A Study Group on the Conservation of Chinese White Dolphins has been set up.

- (d) A Hong Kong – Guangdong Fisheries Resources Environmental Protection Group has been set up.

Work Programme in 2000

2. A “Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection” will be set up under the Hong Kong Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference. Priority will be given to the following areas -

- (a) air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region;
- (b) harmonizing motor diesel fuel specifications;
- (c) co-operation on sustainable forestry and nature conservation;
- (d) water quality of the Dongjiang;
- (e) water quality in the Pearl River Delta Region; and
- (f) urban planning and development

Resource Allocated

3. 16 new posts will be created in 2000-01, with 14 in EPD and 2 in the Government Laboratory to support this work programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 159

Question Serial No.

0821

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the Bureau to run the Healthy Living into the 21st Century Campaign in 2000-2001? How does it compare to the actual expenditure in 1999-2000? Is there any plan to increase staffing? What is the anticipated effectiveness?

Asked by : Dr the Honourable TANG Siu-tong, JP

The approved capital account commitment in 1999-2000 for launching the Campaign is \$10 million and the revised estimated expenditure incurred in 1999-2000 is \$8.429 million. The balance of \$1.571 million will be carried forward to 2000-01. In addition, bureaux and departments involved in the Campaign will deploy resources within their provisions. We do not have any plans to increase the staffing. We are reviewing the progress made in conjunction with Health and Welfare Bureau before determining the strategy for 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 139

Question Serial No.

0822

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In 2000-2001, what resources are allocated for enhancing EFB's cooperation with the Guangdong authorities on issues of mutual concern? What is the specific work?

Asked by : Hon. Miriam Lau

Reply :

Liaison with the Guangdong authorities on issues of mutual concerns forms part of the duties of one AOSGC and one SAO in EFB. While no additional resources have been allocated specifically for this work in 2000-01, support services are being strengthened so that these officers will be able to give more attention to this area.

2. As announced in the CE's Policy Address, a "Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection" has been set up

- (a) to conduct a joint study on air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region and to formulate long-term preventive measures;
- (b) to look into the feasibility of harmonizing motor diesel fuel specifications between the two places;
- (c) to forge closer co-operation on the development of sustainable forestry and nature conservation;
- (d) to protect the water quality of the Dongjiang;
- (e) to enhance exchange of information on the water quality in the Pearl River Delta Region; and
- (f) to strengthen co-operation and liaison with each other in the area of urban

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 136

Question Serial No.

0824

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 154 Government Secretariat : Environment and Food Bureau

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (2), what is the work plan for and what are the objectives to be achieved by Phase 2 of the Healthy Living Campaign?

Asked by : The Honourable Michael HO Mun-ka

Reply :

We are reviewing the progress made in conjunction with Health and Welfare Bureau before determining the strategy for 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 137

Question Serial No.

0825

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Regarding the expenditure incurred from the creation of six posts as mentioned in Programme (3), what are the justifications and what are the duties involved?

Asked by : Hon Michael HO Mun-ka

Reply :

The six posts to be created under programme (3) are :

One Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to take up the secretaryship of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) and development of the target based management programme (TMP) and performance review system (PRS) for this programme area.

Two Senior Executive Officers, one to take up secretaryship for the Environmental Assessment Impact Sub-committee of ACE and to support the CEO in TMP and PRS development, the other to take up administration of the Environment and Conservation Fund and the Green Manager Scheme and to strengthen administrative support to the environment division.

One Senior Engineer to prepare proposals for energy efficiency legislation.

One Administrative Officer to strengthen policy analysis for the environmental improvement programme.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 147

Question Serial No.

0911

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

- a) What is the budget for cleaning-up litter?
- b) What part of the budget is for enforcement work?
- c) What part of the budget is for prevention and what are the measures proposed?

Asked by: Hon Christine LOH

Reply:

- a) Within the Environment and Food Bureau, there is provision of \$16.1 million for formulating and coordinating policies and programmes concerning environmental hygiene which includes public cleansing services. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for providing public cleansing services, with a budget of \$1,574.3 million in 2000-01 for street sweeping, collection of domestic refuse and enforcing anti-littering legislation.
- b) The provision for enforcement work is included in the \$1,574.3 million mentioned in 2000-01.
- c) FEHD has set aside about \$6 million for launching various public education, community involvement and publicity programmes in the coming year. Proposed measures include joint clean-up operations with local organizations, exhibitions, education programmes in schools and publicity programmes through the media.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 141

Question Serial No.

1016

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Will the Administration allocate funds for reviewing the assessment criteria of existing grading system of restaurants and re-assessing the hygienic conditions of various restaurants in order to more accurately reflect the hygienic conditions of restaurant?

Asked by: Hon Emily Lau Wai-hing, JP

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will review the award of "Excellence in Hygiene" certificate under the "Open Categorisation Scheme" which was introduced by the two former Provisional Municipal Councils in November 1999. The review will be conducted by existing staff and there is no need to set aside additional fund for the purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB21

Question Serial No.

1063

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 39 Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What percentage is the amount of sewage treated by the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (STW) since its completion as against its total treatment capacity? What percentage is the expenses of the STW over the total sewage treatment recurrent expenses?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works is designed to handle an average daily flow of 1.7 million cubic metres. Currently the amount of sewage treated represents approximately 19% of the design capacity of the plant. The recurrent expenditure involved is 12.6% of the total recurrent expenditure for sewage treatment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB22

Question Serial No.

1064

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 39 Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What impact will the completion of the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme (SSDS) Stage I have on sewage treatment of the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (SCISTW)? How about its impact on the recurrent expenses of the various sub-heads? What about its impact on sewage charges?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : After full completion of the SSDS Stage I, the volume of sewage to be treated by SCISTW will increase from the current average daily flow of 320,000 cubic metres to about 1.2 million cubic metres.

The impact on the recurrent expenditure due to full commissioning of SSDS Stage I is as follows :-

	\$M
Personal emoluments for creation of 14 posts	
5	
Departmental expenses –	
Light & power	63
Hire of services (Waste & Sludge disposal)	
57	
Specialist supplies (Chemical & equipment)	
37	
Maintenance expenses	
<u>14</u>	<u>176</u>

This will lead to an increase in the recurrent cost of providing sewage services by about 16% which will need to be taken into account in determining sewage charges.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	J. Collier
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 155

Question Serial No.

1126

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head(No. & title) : 154 - Government Secretariat : Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Managing Indoor Air Quality: A Consultation Paper was published in November 1999 by the Environment and Food Bureau. The report suggests implementing a series of IAQ-related activities during the year 2000.

- (a) Who is responsible for overseeing the IAQ programme?
- (b) When will the final decision about implementation of the suggested IAQ measures be made known?
- (c) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Estimates state that the *approved commitment for the pilot indoor air quality certification programme for government buildings* is HK\$5,400,000 (Subhead 700, Item Code 697 (p.251). However, the Environment and Food Bureau does not mention any specified commitment for IAQ in its Estimates. Does this mean that the Environment and Food Bureau plays no role in the IAQ programme?
- (d) If, the Environment and Food Bureau is overseeing the IAQ programme, what is the financial provision for the committed IAQ measures? Please give a breakdown of the provision.
- (e) Who will be responsible for establishing the IAQ Information Centre?
- (f) When will the public be able to gain access to information provided by the IAQ Information Centre?

Asked by : Hon.Christine Loh

Reply :

- (a) The Administration has set up an inter-departmental Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Management Group to oversee the implementation of the IAQ programme. The IAQ Management Group is chaired by the Environment and Food Bureau.
- (b) The IAQ Management Group completed a trade and public consultation exercise on the proposed IAQ programme in January 2000. The Management Group is considering the feedback from various parties including those from members of the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs. It aims to finalise its proposal and report back to the Panel within the next few months.
- (c) As Chairman of the IAQ Management Group, the Environment and Food Bureau plays a co-ordinating role on the implementation of the IAQ programme.
- (d) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is allocated with a recurrent financial provision of \$0.86 million for the creation of 1 professional and 1 technical staff for the setting up and operation of an IAQ Information Centre.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is allocated with a recurrent financial provision of \$1.32 million for the creation of 1 senior professional and 1 professional staff to provide technical support in the development and promotion of the proposed IAQ programme. EMSD has also earmarked a capital expenditure of \$5.4 million for the carrying out of a pilot IAQ certification programme for government buildings.

The Environment and Food Bureau will absorb the additional work arising from the implementation of the proposed IAQ programme within its existing resources in 2000-2001.

- (e) EPD will be responsible for the establishment of the IAQ Information Centre.
- (f) The IAQ Information Centre is intended to be set up and opened to the public within 2000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 165

Question Serial No.

1127

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat : Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

EPD numbers among its matters requiring special attention for its noise programme, the pursuit of measures “for dealing with existing traffic noise problems” (Head 44, p.256, paragraph 16).

- (a) What is the budget for dealing with noise abatement?
- (b) Is there any coordination between EPD and Transport Department to devise means to reduce the number of vehicles on the road to both reduce noise and air pollution from paved road dust and exhaust pipes?
- (c) What measures are being considered and what is the prognosis for their introduction?

Asked by : Hon. Christine Loh

Reply :

- (a) The Administration is finalising a programme to deal with traffic noise, including retrofitting barriers or enclosures on existing roads. The financial resources required will be determined once the programme has been finalised.
- (b) A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was conducted as part of the Third Comprehensive Transport Study. The SEA recommended a number of measures to alleviate the environmental impact of transport activities. The

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 163

Question Serial No.

1173

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat : Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

What amounts of funding have been approved for allocation to applicants under the Environment and Conservation Fund in the last two years? What are its approval criteria? What are the details of the various funded items? What is the current balance of the Fund?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

(a) The amount of fund approved from 1 April 1998 to 13 March 2000 is **HK\$26,127,336**.

(b) In accordance with section 4 of the Environment and Conservation Fund Ordinance, the ECF Committee advises on the disbursement of funds for educational, research and other projects and activities in relation to environmental and conservation matters. The following broad criteria are used in assessing the merits of individual applications:

- (1) the likely extent to which the environmental awareness of the local community is raised, or how far the community is mobilized to take action to improve the environment;
- (2) the coverage of beneficiaries;
- (3) the nature of the applying organisations (the Fund supports only non-profit making organisations); and

(4) the feasibility of the project.

(c) Whilst the ECF Committee will consider every proposal on its own merits, typically funded items include :

- (1) salaries of project assistants;
- (2) transportation;
- (3) hire and decoration of venue, hire of lighting and public address facilities;
- (4) materials, stationery and equipment;
- (5) sponsorship for students participating actively in local conferences;
- (6) printing;
- (7) purchase of refreshments for volunteers;
- (8) fees to hire experienced speakers/trainers;
- (9) procurement of services such as processing films and slides, production of design and artwork; and
- (10) premium for public liability insurance.

(d) The balance of the Fund as at 29 February 2000 was **HK\$48,361,175**.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 153

Question Serial No.

1201

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head(No. & title) : 154 - Government Secretariat : Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

One reason cited for the 408.3% increase in the budget for this programme is to coordinate the efforts of the Environmental Protection and the Transport Department to reduce vehicular emissions of respirable particulates.

- (a) What amount of the budget will be allotted to this coordination effort?
- (b) Which officers in the Environmental Protection Department and the Transport Department were responsible for the inter-department coordination efforts?

Asked by : Hon.Christine Loh

Reply :

- (a) It is not possible to give a breakdown of the budget allocated to this co-ordination effort. The work is undertaken by an Administrative Officer Staff Grade B, an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, and Administrative Officer and a Senior Environmental Protection Officer within the Environment and Food Bureau. These officers also have many other duties.
- (b) The Director of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner for Transport and their staff are responsible for assisting in the implementation of the programme to reduce vehicle emissions.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 166

Question Serial No.

1202

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head(No. & title): 154 Government Secretariat : Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Report for the Third Comprehensive Transport Study (CTS3) shows that, while Hong Kong will experience a modest reduction in respirable particulates in the short term by 2016, the amount of respirable particulates in the air throughout Hong Kong will increase over present levels due to a dramatic increase in paved road dust emitted from increased vehicle use. (Id. at 5-25 through 5-27).

- (a) In the light of this finding, is the Environmental Protection Department planning to adopt measures to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, and if so, what are those measures?
- (b) What is the schedule for adoption of such measures?
- (c) Is the adoption of such measures being coordinated with the Transport Department?
- (d) What part of the budget is allocated to the reduction of vehicular traffic as a means to reduce respirable particles?
- (e) What efforts are being made to extend or improve public transport, such as the MTR, in lieu of further road building?
- (f) Are efforts to reduce reliance on private vehicles among the policy options being considered for the management of greenhouse gases? What other measures are being considered?

Asked by : Hon. Christine Loh

Reply :

- (a) The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Third Comprehensive Transport Study had identified among other things the effect of increasing vehicle numbers on the environment and recommended a number of measures to alleviate the environmental impact of transport activities. The SEA also identified a number of possible measures including more drastic measures such as restraining the growth and usage of vehicles. These measures would need to be further studied in the planning context. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to assist the Transport Department (TD) in this transport planning process.
- (b) As pointed out in the SEA, the timing and extent of these measures would depend on prevailing circumstances and public acceptance.
- (c) EPD will continue to work closely with TD in the transport planning process.
- (d) One senior professional officer and one professional officer in EPD are deployed to deal with air quality related land-use and transport planning matters.
- (e) The Administration has accorded priority to the development of railways in Hong Kong as part of the transport strategy. Five major railway projects will come on stream between 2002 and 2004. By 2016, railways are forecast to handle about 40% to 50% of the total public transport passenger boardings, and the railway network will cover about 70% of the catchment population.
- (f) The Administration has commissioned a study to provide more precise forecasts of greenhouse gas emissions and to examine the socio-economic impacts of different emission reduction options. That will help us to identify what more we should do or how differently we should be shaping policies and incentives. As the study is still underway, it would be premature to determine whether emission reduction options should be considered at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 154

Question Serial No.

1203

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 - Government Secretariat : Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

- Question :
- (a) What is the budget for the formulation of the comprehensive conservation policy and the schedule for its implementation?
 - (b) What is the comprehensive conservation policy to preserve our natural heritage? Will it identify areas where no future development can occur, and how will conservation policy adopted be enforced?
 - (c) What are the criteria used for conserving areas that preserved our natural heritage?

Asked by : Hon.Christine Loh

Reply :

(a) We are in the course of reviewing our conservation policy – this is done using existing staff resources. We intend to complete the review by the end of 2000/2001.

(b) A comprehensive conservation policy aims at conserving and enhancing the natural environment for the better protection of public health and quality of life and for its intrinsic and educational value. Various means on how this could be achieved would be examined. In the course of the review, we will also look into the question of how the policy will be enforced in future.

(c) The conservation and ecological value of the areas concerned, i.e. the richness in flora and fauna, the presence of rare and endangered species, the presence of special habitats and the landscape quality, will be considered in identification of areas important to the preservation of natural heritage. In the case of country

parks, the recreation potential of the areas is also of interest. Apart from these criteria, we will also consider the land status, size and level of threat to the areas in question as well as the historical and scientific significance of the areas. The potential to enhance the ecological value of sites within development areas will also be considered.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 156

Question Serial No.

1204

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- a. Regarding the substantial budget increase for Programme (3), please provide a job description of each of the six new posts to be created to strengthen support services and state the proposed salary range for each.
- b. Please also identify those activities that will begin full-year operation in 2000-2001 and, therefore, require full year funding over last years' budget.

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

- a) The six posts to be created under programme (3) are :

One Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (\$76,485 to \$88,115) to take up the secretaryship of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) and development of the target based management programme (TMP) and performance review system (PRS) for this programme area.

Two Senior Executive Officers (\$47,970 to \$73,815), one to take up secretaryship for the EIA sub-committee of ACE and to support the CEO in TMP and PRS development, the other to take up administration of the Environment and Conservation Fund and the Green Manager Scheme and to strengthen administrative support to the environment division.

One Senior Engineer (\$76,485 to \$88,115) to prepare proposals for energy

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 160

Question Serial No.

1222

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

What measures will the Administration take to improve the existing licensing procedures for restaurant and liquor licenses?

Asked by: Hon Wong Yung-kan

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has set up an inter-departmental working group to consider measures to simplify and expedite the procedure or processing restaurant licence applications. Since 1 January 2000, the Department has shortened the time for the issue of letters of requirements for provisional licences by two weeks and full licences by one week and reduced the time for conducting final verification inspection by two working days. In 2000-01, the Department will assign a case manager to handle enquires and co-ordinate departmental action on each application. As regards liquor licenses, the Department, in consultation with the Liquor Licensing Board, will consider issuing clearer guidelines on the criteria for granting such licences.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 144

Question Serial No.

1294

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: What is the financial provision for launching the Healthy Living Campaign? What is the yardstick adopted by the Administration to measure whether such works have actually helped improve the health status of the general public or the hygienic conditions of Hong Kong?

Asked by: Dr. the Honourable LEONG Che-hung, J.P.

Reply:

The approved capital account commitment in 1999-2000 for launching the Campaign is \$10 million and the revised estimated expenditure to be incurred in 1999-2000 is \$8.429 million. The balance of \$1.571 million will be carried forward to 2000-01. In addition, bureaux and departments involved in the Campaign will deploy resources within their provisions. We are reviewing the progress made in conjunction with Health and Welfare Bureau before determining the strategy for 2000-01. We will take account of the level of public awareness, the extent of community involvement and the actual improvements made during the last two years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 131

Question Serial No.

1297

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 154 Government Secretariat : Environment and Food Bureau

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Regarding the system of classifying all restaurants in Hong Kong into five grades according to their hygiene standards, what is the Government's expenditure on its implementation in 1999-2000? What is the estimated expenditure on this in 2000-2001?
- (b) What is the budget required for reviewing the system? What is the expected completion date of the review?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Wing-chan

Reply :

- (a) The implementation of the Open Categorization Scheme (commonly known as the 5-star Grading Scheme) was carried out by staff of the former Municipal Services Departments. A sum of \$68,500 was incurred for publications and publicity. In 2000-01, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has reserved a sum of \$30,000 for publicity on this Scheme.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 142

Question Serial No.

1327

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

1. What will be area of work in respect of the six new posts to be created?
2. How will the provisions be allocated for environmental improvement, conservation of natural resources, and reduction of pollution and waste?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing,JP

Reply:

1. Of the six new posts to be created, a Chief Executive Officer, two Senior Executive Officers and a Personal Secretary II are to strengthen administrative support to 'Division B' of the Environment and Food Bureau, and to the Councils and Committees which it services. One Senior Engineer post is to be created to help develop proposals for energy efficiency legislation. One Administrative Officer post is to be created to strengthen policy analysis.
2. 'Division B', which is responsible for the Environment and Conservation Programme Area, has three sections. Section 1 (provision \$7.1M) is responsible for the Clean Air, Indoor Air Quality, Noise Control and EIA programmes. Section 2 (provision \$7.7M) is responsible for Waste Policy, Energy Efficiency, International Issues, Green Management and Environmental Reporting. Section 3 (provision \$7.7M) is responsible for Water Pollution Control Policy, Conservation and Country Parks, and Cross Boundary Liaison. The remaining provision (\$1.9M) is for the Deputy Secretary who heads the division and for programme management and administrative support services shared by all the sections.

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 143

Question Serial No.

1328

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question: What is the allocated provision for the Healthy Living Campaign in 2000/01? What is the anticipated effectiveness?

Asked by: The Honourable Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Reply:

The approved capital account commitment in 1999-2000 for launching the Campaign is \$10 million and the revised estimated expenditure in 1999-2000 is \$8.429 million. The balance of \$1.571 million will be carried forward to 2000-01. In addition, bureaux and departments involved in the Campaign will deploy resources within their provisions. We are reviewing the progress made in conjunction with Health and Welfare Bureau before determining the strategy for 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title _____ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB37

Question Serial No.

0051

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In the year 2000 to 2001, the department will develop a plan to manage low-level radioactive waste. What are the estimates and the concrete plan? Please specify what is meant by radioactive waste.

Asked by : Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP

Reply :

Industrial, medical and educational institutions generate wastes that carry small amounts of low-level radioactive substances. Such wastes include smoke detector parts, rayon mantles for kerosene lanterns, luminous watch dials and hands, lightning protection conductor heads, and weakened radiation sources from hospitals and educational institutions.

We are exploring ways for long-term management of these materials. In-house resources will be used to develop this plan and no new resources are required.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB38

Question Serial No.

0052

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : For the coming year, the authorities intend to strengthen cross border liaison on marine pollution issues and co-operate with the mainland department on marine water quality monitoring. Please specify the relevant estimates of expenditure and work plan.

Asked by : Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP

Reply :

To strengthen cooperation with the Mainland on marine environment monitoring, the EPD will participate in the National Marine Environment Monitoring Network (NMEMN) led by the State Oceanic Administration (SOA). As a member agency, the EPD would need to undertake special monitoring work and contribute to the national monitoring database. We estimated that three additional staff will be required. The total staff and other expenditure amounts to \$0.88 M in 2000-2001. In the first year, we will set up a working team with the SOA to establish the technical requirements for our participation in the NMEMN. The detailed programme and work plans will then be developed accordingly.

On marine pollution issues, in addition to the normal cross-border liaison, the EPD is participating in the Second National Marine Pollution Baseline Survey and will deliver a report to the SOA at the end of this calendar year.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- a) Regarding the financial provision of the year 2000-2001, what is the total amount reserved for formulating an implementation plan to develop materials recovery and recycling facilities? What are the details?
- b) Regarding the formulation of an implementation plan to develop materials recovery and recycling facilities, will the Government create any new posts or recruit more staff? If yes, what will be the additional expenditure?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

- a) In February 1999, the Environmental Protection Department commenced a 15-month study to formulate a strategic plan for incorporating materials recovery/recycling facilities into our waste management system. The financial provision in 2000-01 to complete this study is \$1.13 million, funded from the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 705. The total cost of the study is \$4.91 million, and the remaining balance of \$3.78 million has already been spent in previous financial years.
- b) As we are still in the process of formulating the implementation plan and will not be developing the facilities until around 2003-4, the Government will not create any new posts for this purpose in 2000-01.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB33

Question Serial No.

0162

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Regarding the continual development of the waste-to-energy incinerators, what is the financial provision of the Government? Has the Government drawn up a schedule for this? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

An item under Cat B of the Capital Works Reserve Fund in the sum of \$9,780 million has been created under the 1999 RAE for the development of two waste-to-energy incinerators with an overall capacity of 6,000 tonnes per day.

Following finalization of the project's location and design, we intend to start preparing tender documents for the first incinerator project in 2001 with a view to inviting tenders in 2003. Assuming tenders can be awarded in 2004, we intend to commission the first waste-to-energy incinerator in 2008. The second waste-to-energy incinerator is expected to be commissioned 3 years after the first one has commenced operation.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB56

Question Serial No.

0218

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In the new financial year, the Environmental Protection Department will continue with the development of the waste-to-energy incinerators, which has just commenced last year. What are the results and the costs involved in the past year?

Asked by : Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP

Reply :

We commenced the feasibility study for developing our waste-to-energy incineration facilities in September 1997. In the current financial year, we aim to finalize the engineering feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies for a number of potential sites. We intend to consult the public on the findings of these studies in the coming financial year.

The expenditure on the Waste-to-Energy Incineration Facilities Study in 99/00 was \$2.049M.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB76

Question Serial No.

0306

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the amount of grease collected from restaurants last and the anticipated amount to be collected in the coming year by the government? What are the estimated expenses involved? Has the government subsidized the collection and handling costs?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Government does not collect grease from restaurants. Commercial waste collectors are hired by restaurant owners to collect and transport grease trap waste for treatment and disposal at the Grease Trap Waste Treatment Facility provided by the Government at West New Territories Landfill.

From January to December 1999, a total of 67,525 tonnes of grease trap waste were received at the Grease Trap Waste Treatment Facility. The operation cost for this waste was \$11 million.

It is estimated that about 85,000 tonnes of grease trap waste will be received in 2000, costing around \$13 million in operation cost.

No government subsidy is provided to the collection of grease trap waste, however, no disposal charge is imposed at the Grease Trap Waste Treatment Facility.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the government's estimated amount of grease that has been illegally discharged into drains last year? What is the estimated cost involved for the related cleaning work?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We are not able to accurately estimate the amount of grease illegally discharged into drains during 1999.

The main sources of grease waste are the food industry, mainly restaurants. The grease waste is collected by the collection contractors. In 1999, the EPD carried out 8,049 inspections to 5,375 restaurants. As a result, there were 209 convictions for offences under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance in discharging substandard wastewater into sewers or storm drains. The inspections covered all the large restaurants and most of the medium sized restaurants in Hong Kong. We have also conducted unannounced inspections and patrols of blackspots as well as complaint investigations against illegal activities by grease waste collectors, resulting in 12 convictions in 1999. The statistics indicate that there is a reasonably high level of compliance with the Ordinance by restaurants and collectors and the quantity of grease illegally discharged to drains should not be significant.

The Director of Drainage Services is responsible for maintenance of sewers and drains. He has indicated the cost of clearing the grease that has been illegally discharged into the sewers cannot be separately identified. However, the estimated maintenance cost on the sewerage system for 2000-01 is \$110M under Head 39. This includes regular inspection, desilting, clearing of blockages and minor repairs.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the breakdown figures for the amount of chemical wastes treated last year and to be treated in the coming year by the Tsing Yi Chemical Waste Treatment Centre? What percentage does it account for of the annual total amount of wastes being treated by the whole Centre? What is the amount of subsidy given by the government for the treatment of various types of chemical wastes (please give the breakdown figures)?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The breakdown of all waste intake by category at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 1999/00 and 2000/01 is as follows:

Estimate	1999/00 (tonnes)	2000/01 (tonnes)
etchants	12,800	12,800
acids	2,300	2,300
alkalis	2,200	2,200
toxic metal solutions	1,600	1,600
solvents	3,700	3,700
waste oil	7,400	7,400
MARPOL oil	15,200	16,000
MARPOL wastewater	16,200	16,000
others	800	1,000
Total	<u>62,200</u>	<u>63,000</u>

The above 1999/00 waste intake data represent 100% of the annual total amount of wastes treated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre.

The operating fee paid to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre contractor in 1999-00 was about \$470 million. Of this, \$185 million was the fee for overheads and other fixed costs, whilst the remaining \$285 million was for the Variable Operating Fees based on the unit charge for treating different types of waste.

It is not possible to give a general reply for the treatment cost and subsidies for different types of chemical waste, because the costs and subsidies vary depending on the chemical composition and treatment system used and these variables can change with each consignment of waste. However, the overall subsidy for treatment of chemical waste during 1999-2000, was \$195 million.

(Robert J. S. Law)
 Director of Environmental Protection
 17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the government's estimated expenditure for the development of additional recovery and recycling facilities in the coming year? What percentage does it account for of the expenditure under this Programme? What is the specific work involved?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) commissioned a 15-month study in February 1999 to examine how materials recovery and recycling facilities can be integrated into the waste management system. The study costs \$4.91 million and is funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 705 Block Vote. \$3.78 million was spent in 1999 and the financial provision for 2000-01 is \$1.13 million. The expenditure in 2000-01 under this study, constitutes about 1.47% of the environmental works under Capital Works Reserve Fund's Block Vote.

Upon completion of the study in mid 2000, an implementation plan will be formulated for specific recovery/recycling facilities, together with requirements for their development, management and operation. The plan will build on the existing strengths of the recycling industry, look for ways to expand the opportunity for the private sector to deliver cost-effective services and identify niches where the government can render assistance to the industry.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : On the introduction of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG taxis and light buses, what percentage of taxis and light buses are expected to switch from diesel to LPG in 2000-2001. Please give the timetable for full conversion to LPG and whether money will be available to facilitate such conversion. When all taxis are converted to LPG, how much pollutants will be removed from the air?

Asked by : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Reply :

We are updating the projected rate of conversion in light of the announcement in the Budget Speech that the duty on diesel would be restored to \$2.89 per litre on 1 January 2001. Our plan is to require all new taxis to use LPG starting from January 2001 and the entire taxi fleet to use LPG by 2006.

For light buses, we are working with representatives from the light bus trade with a view to launching a 6-month trial of LPG and electric light buses in the next few months. The time table for light buses using LPG or other clean alternatives will be worked out based upon results of this trial.

The Administration has already set aside \$1.4 billion to help owners of taxis, light buses and other pre-Euro standard diesel vehicles to switch over to LPG or use other technologies to improve air quality.

When all taxis use LPG, a 25% reduction in particulates emitted from the entire vehicle fleet will be achieved. Furthermore, LPG taxis emit virtually no smoke.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB39

Question Serial No.

0384

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the status of the study on the waste-to-energy incinerators?

Asked by : Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP

Reply : In developing our waste-to-energy incineration facilities, we are currently completing the engineering feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies for a number of potential sites. We hope to consult the public on the findings of these studies later in the coming financial year.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB40

Question Serial No.

0385

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please elaborate on the waste management plan in terms of resources and time frame.

Asked by : Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP

Reply :

In 1999, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) completed an internal review of the 1989 Waste Disposal Plan which sets out the waste disposal needs and the facilities required to meet those needs up to 2001. As the next step forward, the EPD has started to develop a Waste Management Plan to succeed the Waste Disposal Plan. The new Plan includes a review of the existing waste management system, an assessment of the adequacy of existing facilities to meet our changing needs together with the requirement for additional infrastructure, as well as the formulation of a comprehensive and sustainable waste management strategy for Hong Kong for the next 20 years.

The Plan will be developed by EPD using mainly existing in-house resources. However, a few special assignments, such as the waste data forecast for the next 20 years and a review of the latest waste management technologies are being contracted out. The cost of these services is estimated at \$2.5 million in 2000-01. We expect to deliver a draft Waste Management Plan in early 2001 which will be followed by public consultation before its promulgation in late 2001.

(Robert J. S. Law)

Director of Environmental Protection

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB41

Question Serial No.

0386

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please give an account of the LPG light buses trial scheme in terms of its funding requirements.

Asked by : Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP

Reply :

After consultation with light bus operators, the current plan is that the trial will include LPG and electric light buses. To support the trial, the Administration has reserved \$5.05 million.

To launch the trial, a preparation committee has been set up comprising representatives from light bus operators, experts in transport and electric vehicles as well as representatives from relevant government bureaux and departments. Four LPG light bus suppliers and two electric light bus suppliers have indicated interest to supply light buses for the trial. On behalf of the committee, we are now negotiating with the vehicle suppliers on the terms and details of providing the light buses.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB31

Question Serial No.

0418

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department Subhead: 603

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Under Subhead 603 Plant, Equipment and Works, the estimate for 2000-01 drops almost 90% from the revised estimate of \$4,049,000 in 1999-2000 to \$411,000. Please explain the substantial reduction in provision.

Asked by : Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply :

The drop in expenditure under Capital Account Subhead 603 from Revised Estimate of \$4,049,000 in 1999-2000 to Estimate of \$411,000 in 2000-01 is attributed to the completion of a number of projects for setting up new air monitoring stations in 1999-2000.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment & Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What will the Government do to promote greater public participation in the statutory EIA process and how many resources will be injected?

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply :

Last year, EPD briefed all 18 District Boards on the operation of the EIA Ordinance. In the coming year, we will continue to collaborate with the District Offices to promote greater public participation in the statutory EIA process.

To facilitate public participation at the local level, starting from 1 January 2000, we have required the applicants under the EIA Ordinance to submit project profiles in both English and Chinese. The availability of such documents in Chinese will greatly facilitate the public to be involved in the statutory EIA process at an early stage.

The department will continue to promote a wider use of the dedicated EIA Ordinance web site (www.info.gov.hk/epd/eia), which has been in place since April 1998, to make information fully accessible to the public to facilitate their participation.

Under the current government directive, government proponents are already required to consult the District Councils on the EIA reports. We will encourage the private sector and public corporations to do the same.

To further facilitate the involvement of the District Councils, we will directly notify the secretariats of the District Councils whenever a statutory EIA report is available for the public to comment. We will collaborate with the District Offices to obtain comments from the public.

We rely on the existing resources to promote greater public participation, in collaboration with the District Offices and with the help of the web-based technology.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Regarding the campaign aimed at raising community awareness on waste recycling, has the Department evaluated the degree of effectiveness of such a campaign carried out in 1999-2000? What other initiatives will be used in 2000-2001 and their funding implications?

Asked by : Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP

Reply :

With secretarial and technical support from the EPD, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has organized campaign activities at various levels to raise community awareness on waste recycling.

For housing estates, the ECC has conducted a Waste Recycling Campaign since March 1998; and the campaign is now entering Phase III programme from April 1999 to March 2000. Collection of plastic bottles was added and promoted proactively in this phase. As of today, the number of participant housing estates has reached 300, which include all rental public housing estates. The catchment of the campaign is about three million people with over 800,000 households. According to the data collected during the competition period from July 1999 to January 2000, 28,824 tonnes of waste paper, 403 tonnes of aluminium cans and 208 tonnes of plastic bottles were collected in 236 housing estates.

Moreover, the ECC has commissioned a telephone survey with more than 2,057 respondents on the Waste Recycling Campaign in February 2000. The findings of the survey reflect the effectiveness of the campaign as summarised below :

- 48.2% of all respondents said that their residences are provided with recycle bins or recycling facilities.
- For households who are provided with recycle bins, 46.6% said that they use the bins once a week or more.
- The percentages of all respondents having the habit of separating waste paper, aluminium cans and plastic bottles for recycling are 48.2%, 25.3% and 21.2% respectively.
- 51.7% of the respondents are aware of the Campaign.

As a new initiative for 2000-2001, the ECC aims to invite 100 additional housing estates to join the Waste Recycling Campaign.

For schools, the ECC has just launched a "School Waste Paper Recycling Pilot Scheme" for 100 secondary and primary schools. In 2000-2001, the scheme will be extended to include collection of waste paper, aluminium cans and plastic bottles for 400 schools.

In collaboration with nine local tertiary institutes, the ECC and EPD have recently initiated a new "Waste Recycling Scheme in Universities". In 2000-2001, the scheme will be extended to target at all technical and vocational education institutes. Training workshops on waste recycling will be organized for students and staff members.

As the above campaign activities are organized by the ECC, which is seeking funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund, no financial implication is involved in the Estimates.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Regarding the plan of development through an integrated service-contract approach, please state the amount of money involved, the expected cost-effectiveness and the details of monitoring for the plan.

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply :

For the development of Hong Kong's solid waste facilities, the Government has developed a special contractual approach to engage contractors through open tendering to design, build and operate the new facilities. Since 1990, 24 projects have used this approach including 3 strategic landfills, 8 refuse transfer stations, 1 chemical waste treatment centre, and the restoration of 12 landfills. The total capital cost of these projects is \$11.5 billion and the annual operation cost is \$1.4 billion.

The design-build-operate contracts are cost effective and all costs (apart from inflation) are known for the long contract periods. The contractor is responsible for financing and carrying out the design and construction of the capital works, and after satisfactory commissioning, to operate the facility for 15 years in the case of transfer stations and as long as 50 years for the strategic landfills. There is no need for Government to keep a large team of professional and technical staff to implement the works and operate the facilities. The design-build-operate contract has resulted in competitive tender prices. For instance, if we compare the cost of our landfills with overseas facilities which have similar high environmental standards, e.g. those in the United States, the unit cost of our landfills can be as low as half the price.

For all design-build-operate contracts, specific performance standards are set out in the contract which are measurable and enforceable. To check that standards are being achieved during the course of the contract, continuous monitoring of performance is carried out both by the Government and an independent consultant.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 705 – Civil Engineering

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Regarding the feasibility study on development of waste-to-energy incinerators under subhead 5039DP, will it include a study of the likely emission of toxic gas from the incinerators? Will the feasibility study on development of waste-to-energy incinerators also study the complementary benefits on other waste reduction measures and the effects on the overall economy, in particular the employment of workers, through the use of the waste-to-energy incinerators?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Waste-to-Energy Incineration Facilities Study will address all the potential toxic emissions arising from the incineration of municipal solid wastes.

This Study will consider the integration of incineration facilities into Hong Kong's waste management system. It is estimated that 2400 jobs will be created for construction of the proposed incinerator. An additional 200 jobs will be created for the long term operation of the facilities. However, it does not cover the complementary benefits of other waste reduction measures. Nevertheless, EPD is currently introducing a Waste Reduction Programme which covers all waste reduction issues. Whilst the development of incineration facilities is an integral element of our Waste Reduction Programme, it is only part of the overall package of waste reduction measures.

Our Waste Reduction Programme not only aims to reduce the amount of municipal solid waste generated at source, it also aims to increase the amount of waste material that is recovered, reused or recycled. Our target is to reduce by 40% the amount of waste requiring disposal by 2007. Of this, half will be contributed by engaging in more recycling activities and the remainder will be contributed by the development of bulk waste reduction facilities such as the waste-to-energy incineration facilities. These parts of the programme will not be in conflict, but will complement each other in achieving our overall waste reduction target.

(Robert J. S. Law)

Director of Environmental Protection

17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) The actual numbers of the smoky vehicle reports processed and smoky vehicles tested in 1999 are both higher than the actual numbers in 1998. What are the reasons?
- (b) It is estimated that both the smoky vehicle reports processed and the smoky vehicle tested will be less than the actual numbers in 1999. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP

Reply :

- (a) The increase in 1999 was a result of enhanced enforcement action by the Police as well as additional number of spotters to spot smoky vehicles. The Police reported 4,874 cases in 1998 and 13,051 cases in 1999 and the number of spotters increased from 1,313 in 1998 to 1,613 in 1999.
- (b) The projected drops in smoky vehicle reports processed and the smoky vehicle tested are the result of the introduction of the advanced smoke test in last September. The use of dynamometers will raise the overall maintenance standard of diesel vehicles and we therefore expect a reduced number of smoky vehicles.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) During the year 2000-2001, the Environmental Protection Department will make preparatory work for the introduction of more stringent vehicle emission and fuel standards in 2001. What are the details of the preparatory work and the required resources?
- (b) The Environmental Protection Department will have a net increase of four posts for further development and implementation of motor vehicle emission control strategy. What are the ranking and duties of these four posts?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye, JP

Reply :

- (a) The preparatory work involves mainly the collection and analysis of relevant technical information, discussion with relevant suppliers of vehicles, fuels and technologies, consultation with relevant trades and organisations as well as the drafting of proposals and legislative amendments as may be required. The work will be absorbed by existing resources.
- (b) The net increase of four posts in 2000-2001 refers to the entire air programme in that 13 new posts will be created for new or enhanced functions and at the same time a total of 9 posts will be deleted as a result of the Enhanced Productivity Programme. For further development and implementation of the motor vehicle emission control strategy, there will be five new posts including 2 professional officers, 2 senior inspectors and 1 inspector.

The 2 professional officers will be deployed:

- i. to monitor the world-wide development of the technology of alternative-fuelled vehicles, and the control technology and strategy to improve pollution from in-use vehicles,
- ii. to evaluate the feasibility of introducing any new technologies related to Hong Kong in relation to i. above;
- iii. to enhance the quality assurance for vehicle emission testing centres, and
- iv. to enhance the training of spotters.

The inspectorate grade officers are to assist the professional officers to carry out their duties.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB34

Question Serial No.

0873

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In the year 2000-01, the Environmental Protection Department will have an increase of three posts for strengthening cross border liaison on marine pollution issues and co-operation with the Mainland State Oceanic Administration on marine water quality monitoring. Please explain the details of these posts.

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

To strengthen cross border liaison on marine pollution and co-operation with the Mainland State Oceanic Administration (SOA) on marine monitoring, the EPD will participate in the National Marine Environment Monitoring Network. We estimate that three new posts to accommodate one Environmental Protection Officer and two Environmental Protection Inspectors will be required for this purpose. The total staff and other expenditure amounts to \$0.88 in 2000-2001. In the first year, we will set up a working team with the SOA to establish the technical requirements for our participation in the Network. The major work of the new staff will be to develop and implement the monitoring programme including liaison, arranging sampling and analysis, quality control, data management and report writing.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB35

Question Serial No.

0874

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How will the Environmental Protection Department carry out the work to “strengthen cross border liaison on marine pollution issues and co-operate with the Mainland State Oceanic Administration on marine water quality monitoring”?

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

To strengthen cooperation with the Mainland on marine water quality monitoring, the EPD will participate in the National Marine Environment Monitoring Network (NMEMN) led by the State Oceanic Administration (SOA). The main purpose of participating in the Network is to exchange data and other technical information on the water quality status of China's coasts and seas on a regular basis. As a member agency, the EPD will undertake special monitoring work and contribute to the national monitoring database.

In addition to participating in the Network, the EPD will also take part in the Second National Marine Pollution Baseline Survey and will deliver a report to the SOA at the end of this calendar year.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB36

Question Serial No.

0875

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment & Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : EPD will create two posts in the year of 2000-01 for participating in the environmental cooperation with the Mainland in the areas of environmental assessment and planning. Please explain the details of these posts.

Asked by : Hon CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In 2000-01, 3 posts under the environmental assessment and planning programme will be created. Together with a post to be deleted as a result of the Enhanced Productivity Programme, there will be a net increase of 2 posts. The 3 posts to be created are 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer and 2 Environmental Protection Officers. These posts are to be responsible for conducting regular audits of the implementation of environmental measures in Mirs Bay and Deep Bay and for liaising with the Mainland on the environmental implications of major infrastructure projects affecting both sides.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (4) Waste

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Department processes marine dumping permits, please explain what kind of waste do these permits cover. Please also explain the procedure for dumping of human waste from large ships coming into the harbour.

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

Marine disposal of waste is controlled under the Dumping at Sea Ordinance through a permit system. Marine dumping of waste is generally not allowed except for dredged or excavated materials such as marine mud, river and pond sediment. The dredged or excavated material intended for dumping is required to be tested to determine whether it is suitable for marine disposal and based on its level of contamination, to decide on the most appropriate disposal means.

As specified by the Dumping at Sea Ordinance (Exemption) Notice 1995, disposal of sewage originating from vessels is exempt from the permit control. Pending an international consensus on the control of sewage generated from vessels, no specific law has so far been introduced in Hong Kong. Nonetheless, ocean-going vessels are usually equipped with sewage storage tanks and they are encouraged to use them to store up their sewage during their temporary stay in Hong Kong. The sewage can then be discharged in a controlled manner sufficiently far from land. Direct discharge of sewage into Hong Kong waters is discouraged unless it has been adequately treated on board.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The first aim stated under the Waste Facilities Programme is "prepare plans and programmes for the minimisation of wastes" (p. 253 at 2.), yet none of the key performance measures with respect to waste facilities address waste minimisation.

- (a) Why are none of the key performance measures related to waste minimisation?
- (b) What performance targets and indicators does EPD rely on to measure the effectiveness of its waste reduction measures?
- (c) What waste reduction measures does EPD currently promote and how do they operate?

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

- (a) Whilst it is clear that waste avoidance and minimisation is the fundamental principle guiding our work under the Waste Facilities Programme, it is difficult to quantify the amount of waste reduced at this early stage of implementing the Waste Reduction Framework Plan, especially as it was only launched just over 12 months ago.
- (b) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) aims to achieve the waste reduction targets as set out in the Waste Reduction Framework Plan. That is to further reduce the projected levels of municipal and construction waste requiring disposal by 40% and 20% respectively by 2007. We will closely monitor the annual waste disposal and recovery figures to measure the effectiveness of our waste reduction measures.
- (c) The EPD is actively implementing and promoting all the waste reduction measures stated in the Waste Reduction Framework Plan. These measures include promoting waste reduction through the various sectoral task forces for public housing, private housing, hotels, government, airport community and the construction industry. To date, waste separation and recovery systems have been set up in all 188 public housing estates and 112 private estates as well as over 100 locations in public areas where different sets of bins are provided for the collection of waste paper, aluminium cans and plastic bottles. We are also focussing on measures to reduce construction and demolition waste by ensuring adequate demands for public fill, encouraging other beneficial uses of inert construction and demolition material such as use of recycled aggregates and asphalt, as well as promoting better waste management through education and publicity. We will also be looking at introducing landfill charging to provide the much needed financial impetus to reduce waste.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB67

Question Serial No.

0907

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What budget is there for the restoration of the exhausted landfills in the North-West New Territories and Kwai Chung and what uses will be restored landfills be put to?

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

The exhausted landfills in the North-West New Territories comprise the Siu Lang Shui landfill, Nagu Tam Mei landfill and Ma Tso Lung landfill and the one in Kwai Chung refers to the Gin Drinkers Bay landfill. The restoration of these landfills are funded under PWP Item Nos. 5157DR and 5158DR.

The construction of the restoration work commenced in March 1999 and is scheduled for completion in year 2000. The budget allowed in the 2000-01 Estimate for the two items is \$175.5 million for the North-West New Territories landfills and \$166.6 million for Gin Drinkers Bay landfill, which covers payments for the capital works and the subsequent operation and maintenance of the restoration facilities. Recreational uses are planned for the restored landfills.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Is there a budget for handling low level radioactive waste?
- (b) What measures are taken to handle and treat these wastes?

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

- (a) I am advised that the Director of Health has budgetted the sum of \$9.8 million in her Departmental Expenses for conditioning the low-level radioactive waste currently stored inside the Queen's Road East Tunnel, Wanchai.
- (b) All the low-level radioactive waste inside the Queen's Road East Tunnel will be reassessed and repackaged into new containers. The repackaged waste will be stored inside the tunnel until other purpose-built facilities are available.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (4) Waste

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- a) What specific work will be carried out by the government in the coming year for the review on the assessment of contaminated land? What are the resources required?
- b) At present, what is the total area of land being assessed as contaminated? Are there any solutions? What are the resources required?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In the coming year, the EPD will develop a new framework for the assessment of contaminated land using a risk-based approach which is now commonly adopted in other developed countries. It will take into account the toxic properties of the more common chemicals and their exposure risk to human receptors. We will seek assistance from experienced specialist consultants to develop the framework and the new standards. We have reserved a sum of \$1.2 M for this purpose.

We have not conducted a territory-wide survey on all potential contaminated sites in Hong Kong. However, any person who wishes to redevelop sites whose past uses have the potential to cause land contamination is required to carry out assessment and to clean up the contaminated areas. These requirements are enforced through the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance or land lease documents. The common technical solutions for the clean up of contaminated land include on-site remediation using recovery wells, venting of volatile chemicals, biodegradation, as well as excavation of contaminated soil for off-site disposal.

The resources for the clean up of contaminated land depend on the nature and extent of the contamination, and are therefore highly site specific. As an example, the clean-up cost for the ex-Kai Tak airport site, which has been extensively contaminated by petroleum products, is around \$80 million.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (4) Waste

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- a) For the past three years, what are the annual figures for the complaints received and inspections conducted by the government in connection with illegal deposit of waste? What are the related number of prosecutions, the percentage of conviction and the average amount of fines?
- b) What is the staff establishment for the handling of illegal deposit of waste in the Environmental Protection Department? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- a) The required statistics related to flytipping control are set out below:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Number of complaints received by EPD	293	491	823
Number of inspections	1741	8340	4267
Number of prosecutions	42	80	81
Average fine	\$5,736	\$5,000	\$4,277

The high number of inspections in 1998 was due to the setting up of a temporary Interdepartmental Task Force for Flytipping Control in EPD from April to June 1998 and higher priority was given to tackle the flytipping problem. This co-ordinating function has been taken over by the Lands Department in 1999.

- b) EPD pollution control staff are organized on a geographical basis to carry out multi-functional enforcement work. As such, a large number of our control staff are constantly on the lookout for illegal dumping activities while going about other field duties. This arrangement is necessary as we need to catch the flytippers on the spot before we could initiate prosecution action. It is not possible, therefore, to quote a precise resource allocation to this function. In 1997-1999, all the prosecutions resulted in conviction.

(Robert J. S. Law)
 Director of Environmental Protection
 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB57

Question Serial No.

0934

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Government has planned to pursue measures for dealing with existing traffic noise problems. What are these measures and the amount of money involved?

Asked by : Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply :

To deal with existing traffic noise problems, the government is finalising an implementation programme to provide noise mitigation measures on existing roads. Retrofitting barriers or enclosures on existing roads are part of the measures being considered. Once the programme is worked out, the amount of money involved could be determined.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the additional financial provision and manpower deployed in 2000-01 for strengthening liaison and cooperation with the Mainland authorities? Are those posts included in the "net 10 posts" to be created in 2000-01 and what are these "net 10 posts"? Please provide breakdown according to programme areas. Please also provide the corresponding provisions for 1999-2000.

Asked by : Dr Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply :

A provision of \$5.7 million comprising 14 posts will be deployed in 2000-01 for strengthening cooperation with the Mainland authorities to tackle cross border pollution issues.

They are included in the "net ten posts" to be created in 2000-01 for the department. The net increase of 10 new posts comprises the following:-

- Programme (2) Air - a net increase of four posts;
- Programme (4) Waste - a net increase of three posts;
- Programme (5) Water - a net increase of three posts;
- Programme (6) Environmental Assessment & Planning - a net increase of two posts;

to be offset by the deletion of two posts under Programme (1) Waste Facilities.

At present, the department does not have any staff specifically designated for tackling cross border pollution issues with the Mainland authorities. Such work is dealt with by existing staff under the various programmes as and when required. As such, the resources involved are not readily quantifiable.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB59

Question Serial No.

0953

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Other than those studies or reviews already listed in the "Capital Account - Commitment", will the Department commission any further consultancy studies in 2000-01? Please list the financial provision and nature of each.

Asked by : Dr Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply :

The items listed under the "Capital Account - Commitments" already cover all the major studies and reviews to be conducted in 2000-01 under Head 44. For minor consultancy studies, a block provision of around \$2 million has been set aside in the Recurrent Account under the "hire of services" sub-head to cater for such work as the need arises.

There are other studies and investigations commissioned by the department which are funded under Head 705 of the Capital Works Reserve Fund (Volume II - Fund Accounts of the Draft Estimates).

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01, it is stated that the department will raise community awareness by organizing waste recycling campaigns in public and private housing estates, schools and universities.

- How much provision will be distributed for organizing waste recycling campaigns in 2000-01?
- How many public housing estates, private housing estates, schools and universities have joined waste recycling campaigns? What is the estimate target in 2000-01?

Asked by : Hon Howard YOUNG, JP

Reply :

With secretarial support from the EPD, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) will continue to organize waste recycling campaigns in public and private housing, schools and universities in 2000-2001. As such activities will be funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF), no financial provision is involved in the Estimates.

To further enhance residents' awareness in waste reduction and waste separation and recovery, EPD will continue to deliver talks in workshops, provide estate managers and residents with adequate publicity materials such as posters and videos, and help individual estates to set up their own waste reduction and recovery programmes.

As of today, 188 public rental housing estates of the Housing Authority (HA) and the Housing Society (HS), 15 private housing estates from the HS and 97 private housing estates have joined the "Waste Recycling Campaign in Housing Estates"; 100 primary and secondary schools have participated in the "School Waste Paper Recycling Pilot Scheme"; and nine tertiary institutes including all universities and the Hong Kong Institute of Education have enrolled in the "Waste Recycling Scheme in Universities".

For 2000-01, it is targeted to have 400 housing estates, 400 schools and 21 higher education institutes to join the campaigns.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) It is estimated that the no. of green groups, schools and community groups involved in environmental awareness and education programmes will drop 39.2% from 2630 in 1999? What are the reasons?
- (b) What is the financial provision for publicizing government's environmental work and build up community understanding of and support for the environmental programme in 2000? Apart from the existing promotion activities, are there any new activities to be held to enhance public's awareness on environmental protection in 2000?

Asked by : Hon Howard YOUNG, JP

Reply :

Part (a)

In 1999, the number of green groups, schools and community groups involved in environmental awareness and education programmes has increased by 108.7% in comparison with the figure for 1998. It is estimated that the number will drop by 39.2% in 2000. This is mainly due to the promotion of some special programmes in 1999 and the changes in promotion strategies for 2000 as explained below :

- In 1999, the "Waste Recycling Campaign in Housing Estates Phase III" was extended to include collection of plastic bottles in addition to waste paper and aluminium cans. To promote plastic bottles recycling, the EPD and the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) worked closely with the estate management offices of public and private housing estates, green groups, Mutual Aid Committees and voluntary agencies to organize a large number of activities.
- To echo the Healthy Living Campaign, EPD jointly worked with SWD and the Social Service Council to launch the Environmental Protection Volunteer programme in 1999. This involved a large number of community groups. The number of outside organizations involved in environmental awareness and education programmes was, therefore, unusually high in 1999.

In 2000, the focus for the EPD and the ECC will shift to working more directly with the District Councils, and new programmes with more specific targets will be introduced. As a result, the number of outside organizations involved will drop. Key organisations such as the Green Groups, however, will still be very active.

Part (b)

About \$2 million will be reserved for publicizing government's environmental work and building up community understanding of and support for the environmental programme.

Apart from the existing promotion activities, there are a number of new initiatives. The EPD will co-ordinate the planning and development of Environmental Resource Centres in different parts of the territory. The ECC will also extend the scale of waste recycling campaigns in public and private housing estates, schools and tertiary institutes. Moreover, the first Hong Kong Green School Award aiming at green management in schools is also being launched this year.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) The no. of complaints handled has increased 13.4% from 1998 to 1999 and the estimate number of complaints handled in 2000 will increase 6.5% to 5300.
- What is the number of complaints received in 1998 and 1999 respectively which have not been handled?
 - Please provide a breakdown on the number of complaints by types in 1998 and 1999
- (b) As the Administration will review the need for tightening the control of daytime construction noise as part of the continued effort to reduce public exposure to excessive noise. Will the Administration inform this Council
- the number of complaints received related to daytime construction noise pollution in 1999-2000?
 - the time schedule to complete the review and the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon Howard YOUNG, JP

Reply :

- (a) EPD handled all complaints received in 1998 and 1999. The following is a breakdown of the complaints handled:

<u>Year</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Construction Noise	1463	1771
Commercial/Industrial Noise	2666	2890
Others (transportation noise ... etc)	260	316

- (b) EPD received 947 complaints related to daytime construction noise in 1999.

We aim to complete review on the need for controlling daytime construction noise in 2001, after analysing the complaints and both local and overseas practices in tackling daytime construction noise. The review will be done in-house and no additional staff resource is required.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the reason for the substantial drop from 91% in 1998 to 14% in 1999 of the percentage of monitoring stations complying with short-term Air Quality Objectives?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye, JP

Reply :

Air pollution trends need to be observed for longer periods before firm conclusions can be drawn. However, while there are some indications of worsening air pollution, particularly regional air pollution, our preliminary view is that the substantial drop in the short-term air quality objectives (AQO) compliance rate last year may be due to last year's rather unusual weather patterns.

The Hong Kong Observatory reported that 1999 was the second warmest year on record. It also reported that the total duration of display of tropical cyclone warning signals amounted to 520 hours in 1999, while the average duration since 1956 was only 280 hours a year. Hence 1999 was not a normal year in terms of average weather. The presence of tropical cyclones can lead to significant elevations in the short term air quality readings.

In terms of average air pollution levels, as reflected in compliance with the long term AQOs, we have not observed the same substantial drop in compliance, as can be seen from the following statistics. The average air pollution levels in 1999 were in fact similar to those in 1998 and better than the previous years.

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Long-term AQO Compliance Rate	12%	12%	33%	33%	60%	50%

The short term AQO compliance rate is, however, more sensitive to weather than the long term compliance rate because the occurrence of a few days of elevated air pollution will result in all monitoring stations not complying with the air quality objectives.

(Robert J. S. Law)
 Director of Environmental Protection
 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB46

Question Serial No.

1004

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Why is it estimated that the number of smoky vehicle reports processed, smoky vehicles tested and enquiries/complaints on smoky vehicle matters dealt with will all drop by around 10% in 2000?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye, JP

Reply :

A more advanced smoke test has been introduced since September 1999. All vehicles up to 5.5 tonnes spotted under the smoky vehicle control programme are now required to be tested using a chassis dynamometer. The new technology will help raise the general maintenance standard of the diesel vehicle fleet and hence should result in less smoky vehicles. We therefore expect the number of smoky vehicles reports, the number of smoky vehicle tested and the number of enquiries/complaints on smoky vehicles to drop in 2000. The preliminary results indicate that the number of smoky vehicles can decrease by as much as 20%. A drop by 10% in reports has been used as a conservative estimate, taking into account the increasing number of spotters and also increasing public awareness over the issue of smoky vehicles.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB47

Question Serial No.

1005

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Pending the completion of the joint study with Guangdong on the air pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region, what efforts and resources are being devoted to reduce air pollution coming from across the border?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP

Reply :

The findings of the joint study will act as an important basis for both sides to develop joint action plans to deal with regional air pollution. Meanwhile, however, Hong Kong and Guangdong are separately implementing various programmes to control air pollution within their own boundaries. We are also discussing with the Guangdong authorities a proposal to set up a working group to explore the feasibility for both places to adopt common standards for diesel fuels. If found feasible, this would further help to reduce regional and local air pollution.

In 2000/2001, 3 posts comprising 1 senior professional and 2 professionals will be provided to support the joint study, to follow up the findings after its completion and to enhance the cooperative work with Guangdong in tackling air pollution in the region.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB48

Question Serial No.

1006

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What measures and resources will be devoted to dealing with existing traffic noise problems during 2000-01?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye, JP

Reply :

To deal with existing traffic noise problems, the government is finalizing an implementation programme to provide noise mitigation measures on existing roads. Retrofitting barriers or enclosures on existing roads are part of the measures being considered. Once the programme is worked out, the government will consider the resources required for the programme.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB49

Question Serial No.

1007

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please explain why the number of complaints has risen but the number of prosecutions under the NCO has dropped in 1999 compared to 1998.

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP

Reply :

The increase in complaints was mainly related to day-time general construction and commercial/industrial noise.

For day-time general construction noise, it is not controllable under the Noise Control Ordinance and more complaints would not lead to more prosecutions.

For commercial and industrial noise, EPD successfully resolved many complaints on commercial/industrial noise through serving noise abatement notices, and the notices were subsequently complied with. Under the Noise Control Ordinance, only failure to comply with a noise abatement notice would lead to prosecution. The number of prosecutions on commercial/industrial noise has therefore dropped.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB49

Question Serial No.

1007

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please explain why the number of complaints has risen but the number of prosecutions under the NCO has dropped in 1999 compared to 1998.

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP

Reply :

The increase in complaints was mainly related to day-time general construction and commercial/industrial noise.

For day-time general construction noise, it is not controllable under the Noise Control Ordinance and more complaints would not lead to more prosecutions.

For commercial and industrial noise, EPD successfully resolved many complaints on commercial/industrial noise through serving noise abatement notices, and the notices were subsequently complied with. Under the Noise Control Ordinance, only failure to comply with a noise abatement notice would lead to prosecution. The number of prosecutions on commercial/industrial noise has therefore dropped.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB50

Question Serial No.

1008

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What are the findings of the Feasibility Study on retrofitting heavy diesel vehicles with diesel catalysts? Why is it necessary to allocate resources to carry out such a feasibility study?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP

Reply :

The 1-year trial just started last month. The findings of the trial will be available in early 2001.

The funding is for procuring diesel catalysts for the trial and commissioning the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to install the catalysts as well as to collect and analyse the trial data.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB82

Question Serial No.

1017

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Has the Government reserved any funds for assisting the owners of diesel vehicles in retrofitting catalytic converters and filters? If yes, what is the amount and what percentage does it account for of the whole programme?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Administration has set aside a total of \$1.4 billion to help owners of taxis, light buses and other pre-Euro standard diesel vehicles to switch over to LPG, install particulate traps or fit catalytic converters. We are conducting various trials on retrofitting diesel vehicles with particulate traps and catalytic converters. After completing the trials and after consulting the relevant trades, we will work out a specific budget and seek funding from the Finance Committee.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB83

Question Serial No.

1018

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please state in details the contents of the LPG Public Light Bus Trial Scheme. When will the scheme commence and when will it complete?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

After consultation with light bus operators, the current plan is that the trial will include both LPG and electric light buses. To launch the trial, a preparation committee has been set up comprising representatives from light bus operators, experts in transport and electric vehicles as well as representatives from relevant government bureaux and departments. Light buses under trial will be run by experienced public light bus operators in real commercial situations to gauge their performance. Four LPG light bus suppliers and two electric light bus suppliers have indicated interest to supply light buses for the trial. The preparation committee is working on the details of the trial, such as routes to be chosen and the number of light buses to be tried. The plan is to start the trial around the middle of this year and it is expected to last for 6 months.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) How is a "built-up area" defined?
- (b) What percentage of the financial provision for noise abatement (p. 263) is allocated to ensure compliance with established noise standards?

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

- (a) The term "built-up area" is a common general expression used to describe areas containing developments such as schools, residential buildings and commercial buildings in reasonably close proximity to each other. The term, however, is not used in the legislation. The legislation controls the use of noisy percussive piling hammers through noise level restrictions. The effect of these, however, is such that it would not be possible to use percussive piling hammers closer than 200 metres to any buildings. In essence, therefore, such hammers cannot be used in what would generally be regarded as built-up areas.
- (b) The objective of the overall Noise Programme is to ensure compliance with established noise standards through intervention in the planning process and the enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance. The entire financial provision under this programme is, therefore, essentially for this purpose.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the breakdown of the pollution complaints handled by EPD vis-a-vis noise, air, water, etc.?

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

The breakdown for 1999 is given as follows:

Air		
	Air nuisance from industrial activities	1539
	Greasy fumes from restaurants	1302
	Air nuisance from construction activities	903
	Open burning emission	339
	Asbestos emission	48
	Furnaces	43
	Paint spraying emission	22
	Others (e.g. laundries)	442
	Total:	4638
Smoky Vehicle	Total:	13867
Noise		
	Construction activities	1771
	Industrial and commercial noise	2890
	Others (e.g. traffic noise)	316
	Total:	4977
Waste		
	Illegal dumping and refuse nuisance	823
	Chemical waste	319
	Livestock waste	428
	Others (e.g. marine dumping)	11
	Total:	1581
Water		
	Food and restaurant discharges	388
	Construction discharges	226
	Domestic discharges	266
	Repair services	101
	Textile and chemical industries	71
	Other industrial discharges	775
	General water pollution	22
	Total:	1849

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB51

Question Serial No.

1028

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The number of complaints investigated under the Air Programme in 1999 has increased 40% when compared with the figure in 1998. It is estimated that such cases will continue to increase in 2000. Is it necessary for the Government to increase manpower to deal with these complaints?

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The increase in complaints is mainly due to the increase in environmental awareness and higher expectation from members of the public. The EPD has been streamlining its complaint handling procedures in response to this rising trend. At this stage additional manpower should not be required but we will keep the resources requirements under constant review.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In respect of the smoky vehicle problems, the reports and complaints processed and the vehicles tested by the EPD have all increased substantially. Could the Government tell the reasons? In 2000, what are the specific plans to extend the new vehicle smoke testing technology to all smoky vehicles? And what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The increase in 1999 was a result of enhanced enforcement action by the Police as well as additional numbers of spotters to spot smoky vehicles. The Police reported 4,874 cases in 1998 and 13,051 cases in 1999, and the number of spotters increased from 1,313 in 1998 to 1,613 in 1999.

The new vehicle smoke testing technology was introduced last September for vehicles up to 5.5 tonnes. We are discussing with the relevant operators on introducing the new technology for vehicles above 5.5 tonnes. Subsequently we will arrange to amend the relevant codes of practice for vehicle smoke testing and to arrange centres designated for testing these vehicles. Our plan is to extend the advanced smoke test to all smoky vehicles within 2000. These centres are operated under the full cost recovery principle. The costs are to be born entirely by the owners of the vehicles making use of these facilities.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The percentage compliance with Water Quality Objectives for marine waters in 1998 and 1999 are 69% and 78% respectively. The Environmental Protection Department expects there will only be a slight increase of 1% for the relevant percentage compliance in 2000. Does this imply that the problem of marine water pollution remains serious? In this connection, what is the expected time for the government to commence the planned "marine water quality monitoring" with the Mainland State Oceanic Administration? What are the relevant estimates of expenditure?

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The percentage compliance with the Water Quality Objectives for marine waters in 1998 at 69% was unexpectedly low. We believe that it is probably due to the unusual weather conditions associated with the global "El Nino" phenomenon. The situation improved in 1999 and the prediction for 2000 is that it will return to the condition prior to 1998. To further improve marine water quality, major investments are being made in sewage collection and treatment systems.

With regard to the marine water quality monitoring with the Mainland State Oceanic Administration (SOA), the EPD plans to participate in the National Marine Environment Monitoring Network. We will start work in 2000-2001 by setting up a working team with SOA to establish the technical requirements for our participation in the Network. We estimate that three additional staff will be required. The total staff and other expenditure amounts to \$0.88M in 2000-2001.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

On the promotion of environmental awareness:

- (a) At present, EPD has operated two Environmental Resource Centres. Has the Government ever considered the development of Environmental Resource Centres in other areas to promote community environmental awareness? If yes, what are the details and the resources involved?
- (b) In the year 1999, EPD has organised 120 environmental awareness and education programmes. Can the Government give the details, total expenditure and effectiveness of these programmes? What is the estimated expenditure for the 120 such programmes to be organised by the Government for the year 2000?

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Part (a):

The EPD continues to seek suitable sites in different parts of the territory for development of new Environmental Resource Centres (ERCs). A new ERC is planned to be established in Fanling and is scheduled for opening in 2002. The capital cost for the centre is estimated to be approximately \$15.5 million. When opened, the new ERC will serve about 0.92 million residents in the North New Territories. In addition, a new mobile ERC will come into operation in 2000 to enable EPD to disseminate environmental information to housing estates, schools and the wider community in a more efficient manner. The Mobile ERC is a specially constructed large van and will be fuelled by environmentally friendly LPG. It is the first of its kind. The capital cost of the Mobile ERC is being funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, at a sum of \$1.5 million.

Part (b):

The 120 environmental awareness and education programmes organized in the year 1999 included 18 environmental community carnivals, 48 environmental training programmes, 10 workshops, seminars and briefing sessions, 5 overseas training visits, 13 environmental drama sessions for schools and other campaign activities.

In 1999-2000, EPD spent about \$2.5 million in organizing the environmental education programmes. A further \$1 million from the Environment and Food Bureau was spent in organizing relevant activities under the Healthy Living Campaign. Of the 120 environmental awareness and education programmes, 68 programmes were organized by the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) and separately funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF). The effectiveness of the major programmes can be reflected from results of various surveys :

- In a survey from 543 schools, 80% of the schools responded that the environmental student ambassadors programmes are effective; and 82% of the schools responded that the environmental camps are effective
- From feedback from 17 organisations, about 90% indicated that the environmental education workshops can raise their awareness and they can implement what they learned from the workshops. Some organisations responded that they would like to see EPD organising workshops, carnivals, field visits and environmental activities

- From a telephone survey from 2057 people, 70% said that programmes like exhibitions, carnivals, competition and other environmental activities would enhance their environmental awareness in waste recycling, these are our major programmes in 1999; and 46.6% of people said that they will use the recycle bins once a week or more.

For the year 2000-2001, it is estimated that the EPD will spend about \$2.7 million in departmental expenditure in organizing the environmental education programmes and an additional \$2 million for publicizing government's environmental work and building up community understanding of and support for the environmental programme. For the ECC's activities, funding is being sought from the ECF.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

When waste facilities are concerned,

- (a) What are the financial provisions for the development and management of incineration facilities for clinical waste and other special wastes in 2000-01; and the corresponding expenses in 1999-2000? Please provide breakdown according to the type of "other special wastes". Has this amount already included the expenses for the "contract for disposal of clinical waste"; and how much? For the \$13.8 million allowed in the estimates of 1999-2000 for the purpose, how was the amount being spent, given that the initial modification work at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre is yet to start.
- (b) What are the financial provisions for (a) the development and management of chemical waste treatment facilities; and (b) development of a plan to manage low-level radioactive waste in 1999-2000; and the corresponding estimates for 2000-01?

Asked by : Dr Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply :

- (a) The breakdown by waste type of the financial provision for the development of incineration facilities for clinical waste and special wastes in 1999/00 and 2000/01 is as follows:

	<u>1999/00</u>	<u>2000/01</u>
Clinical waste	\$0.15M	\$0.00M
Animal carcasses	<u>\$0.10M</u>	<u>\$0.40M</u>
Total	<u>\$0.25M</u>	<u>\$0.40M</u>

Of the total provision of \$13.8M in the original 1999/00 estimate, a sum of \$10.87M was allowed for the modification work at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre for the treatment of clinical waste. However, this proposal has been postponed, pending the review of dioxin emissions, and no expenditure was made in 1999/00.

- (b) The breakdown of the financial provision for the operation of the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre and the development of a plan to manage low-level radioactive waste in 1999/00 and 2000/01 is as follows:

	<u>1999/00</u>	<u>2000/01</u>
Chemical Waste Treatment Centre	\$470.0M	\$497.5M
Low-level Radioactive Waste	\$0.1M	\$0.0M

(Robert J. S. Law)
 Director of Environmental Protection
 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB61

Question Serial No.

1042

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Is there any financial and manpower provision specified for recovery of waste for recycling?

Asked by : Dr Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply :

Following the launch of the Waste Reduction Framework Plan in November 1998, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has deployed a team comprising 1 senior professional, 3 professionals and 4 technical grade staff to implement the various initiatives in the Plan. As one of the key features of the Plan is to harness private sector and community participation in waste reduction, a high level Waste Reduction Committee was formed in February 1999 to spearhead the implementation of the Waste Reduction Framework Plan. In addition, 7 sectoral task forces for public housing, private housing, hotels, airport community, government, construction industry and recycling trade have been set up to promote waste reduction and recovery in the various sectors. The EPD is providing administrative support to the Waste Reduction Committee and its 7 task forces.

As an initiative to enhance the recovery rate of recyclable materials from the municipal waste stream, the EPD commissioned a 15-month study in February 1999 to formulate an implementation plan to integrate materials recovery and recycling facilities into the waste management system. The study costs \$4.91 million and will be completed in mid-2000.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please provide quantifiable data to indicate how the retrofitting of buses with diesel catalyts has helped alleviate the air pollution problem. Is the cost of the project, including the trial, totally borne by the bus companies? Does the Department need to put in any financial or manpower provision in this project, as well as in the future trials of retrofitting diesel catalyts and particulate traps on various diesel vehicles? If yes, please provide the breakdown.

Asked by : Dr Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply :

Diesel catalyts can reduce by up to 50% the amount of diesel particulate matter from a bus. There are about 2000 pre-Euro-emission-standard large buses. Retrofitting them with diesel catalyts will reduce the total particulates emission from the entire vehicle fleet by about 2%.

All franchised bus companies are now voluntarily retrofitting their pre-Euro-emission-standard large buses with diesel catalyts completely at their own cost. The trial of retrofitting diesel catalyts onto large buses was completed in collaboration with the Kowloon Motor Bus Ltd in 1999. The Administration provided the diesel catalyts at a cost of about \$120,000 and Kowloon Motor Bus Ltd. bore the installation and running costs.

The department is currently conducting trials of retrofitting diesel catalyts and particulate traps onto other diesel vehicles. A total provision of \$1.7 million has been reserved for the trial of diesel catalyts and \$0.6 million reserved for the trial of particulate traps. The manpower required will be absorbed by existing resources.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB63

Question Serial No.

1044

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is the financial provision for operating and developing the 24-hour reporting system of air pollution index in 1999-2000; and the corresponding projection for 2000-01? Is there any plan for extending the coverage or adding monitoring station(s) in the forthcoming financial year?

Asked by : Dr Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply :

In 1999-2000, the financial provision for developing and operating the 24-hour air pollution index reporting system is \$556,000. The development work, started in 1998 and costing a total of \$2 million, has already been completed. In 2000-01, the financial provision for operating the system is \$300,000.

The Administration has no plan to add more air monitoring stations in the forthcoming financial year. The current network has covered different land uses and roadside conditions and is able to provide a full spectrum of the levels of air pollution in Hong Kong. We will, however, continue to watch for any need to expand or modify the network in future, e.g. due to significant development and changes in our urban form.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please provide data or information to indicate the benefits of cost-efficiency of the new vehicle smoke testing technology in tackling smoky vehicle problem, given that there are decreases in the projected performance in 2000 for all those indicators listed relating to smoky vehicle.

Asked by : Dr Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply :

The projected decrease in the numerical values of the smoky vehicle related indicators is not a decrease in performance. We expect that the vehicle maintenance standard will improve generally due to the introduction of the new vehicle smoke testing technology, and this should result in reduced number of smoky vehicles reports, smoky vehicle tested as well as enquiries/complaints related to smoky vehicle matters.

The new test was introduced in September 1999. With the new technology, only vehicles that are properly repaired can pass the new test. Although the concerned vehicle trades are still at the adaptative period, preliminary results have shown that the number of smoky vehicles on the road has been reduced by 20%.

The vehicle testing centres under the scheme are operated under the full cost recovery principle. The costs are to be born entirely by the owners of the vehicles spotted to have emitted black smoke. It is an efficient way to tackle the problem of smoky vehicles.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB84

Question Serial No.

1065

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please give in detail the titles, ranking and duties of the three additional posts created under Programme (5). What are the anticipated results to be achieved with the creation of these posts?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

To strengthen cross-border liaison on water quality, the EPD will participate in the National Marine Environment Monitoring Network (NMEMN) led by the State Oceanic Administration (SOA). We estimate one Environmental Protection Officer and two Environmental Protection Inspectors will be required for this work. Their duties will be to develop and implement the Hong Kong contribution to the Network. This will require liaison with the SOA, sample collection and analysis, quality control, data management and report writing. The results to be achieved include better understanding of the conditions of our coastal waters (and therefore a better basis for water quality management), better exchange of information between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and a further strengthening of our working relationship.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB85

Question Serial No.

1066

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (5) Water

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please provide the details about the formulation of the Mirs Bay Regional Water Quality Control Strategy. When does it commence and when does it complete?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Mirs Bay Regional Water Quality Control Strategy Study aims to formulate water pollution control options to ensure that the water quality objectives set for Mirs Bay will be met on a long term basis. It is to be a collaborative effort between Shenzhen and Hong Kong which has been endorsed by the Hong Kong-Guangdong Environmental Protection Liaison Group. The study will review the conservation goals for Mirs Bay and, through the application of mathematical modelling techniques, determine the amount of nutrient and other pollution loadings that can be safely absorbed without threatening those goals. This information will form the basis for drawing up the necessary pollution control plans to apply on both places. The precise start date is under discussion with the Shenzhen authorities. Pending agreement with them, we hope to start by September this year and complete the work by September 2002.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB90

Question Serial No.

1156

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 705 – Civil Engineering

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Regarding project 5039DP (Category B), what are the details of the waste-to-energy facilities?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP

Reply :

A sum of \$9,780 million has been reserved under item 5039DP of the Capital Works Reserve Fund (Cat. B) for the development of two waste-to-energy incinerators with an overall capacity of 6,000 tonnes per day.

Under item 5039DP, following finalization of the project's location and design, we intend to start preparing tender documents for the first incinerator project in 2001 with a view to inviting tenders in 2003. Assuming tenders can be awarded in 2004, we intend to commission the first waste-to-energy incinerator in 2008. The second waste-to-energy incinerator is expected to be commissioned 3 years after the first one has commenced operation.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) During the year 1999-00, the percentages of monitoring stations complying with short-term and long-term Air Quality Objectives are only 14 and 50 respectively, and the targets set for the year 2000-01 are 36 and 50 respectively. Does it indicate that the air pollution in Hong Kong is getting worse when compared with 91 and 60 set for the year 1998-99? What resources will the Government put in and what measures will be adopted in order to achieve the target of 100?
- (b) During the year 1999-00, the number of prosecutions completed is 493 which reflects a substantial increase of 94.1% over the figure for 1998-99. What are the reasons? Please give the breakdown figures of the prosecution cases by types.
- (c) Please provide detail about the extension of the new vehicle smoke testing technology to all smoky vehicles, and what are the required expenses?

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply :

- (a) Air pollution trends need to be considered over a longer period before firm conclusions can be drawn. There are some indications that air pollution is worsening, but our preliminary view is that the substantial drop in the short-term Air Quality Objectives (AQO) compliance rate may be due to last year's unusual weather patterns. To achieve 100% compliance with the short and long-term Air Quality Objectives, it is necessary to introduce various programmes as set out in the Chief Executive's Policy Address last year, to tackle both local and regional air pollution. To this end, the provision for the entire air programme was \$211.9 million in 1999/2000 and will be \$213.3 million in 2000/2001.
- (b) The significant increase in prosecution cases arose from the large number of offences discovered at construction sites under the new Air Pollution Control (Construction Dust Regulation). The breakdown of the 1999 prosecution figures, together with the respective figures of 1998, are as follows:

Category	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Contravention under Construction Dust Regulation	42	301
Non-compliance of Abatement Notice	44	57
Offences Related to Specified Process	42	25
Offences Related to Environmental Asbestos Control	16	2
Chimney Dark Smoke	54	32
Illegal Installation of Furnace and Chimney	23	23
Illegal Open Burning	21	39
Others	.	.
	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>
	<u>254</u>	<u>493</u>
Total		

- (c) The advanced smoke test was introduced last September for vehicles up to 5.5 tonnes. We intend to extend the technology to cover all vehicles within 2000. The dynamometers required will be provided and operated by privately-run designate testing centres on a full cost recovery basis.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Government plans to organise waste recycling campaigns in public and private housing estates and schools. What is the specific work? What is the estimated expenditure? What is its percentage in this Programme?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been implementing the Waste Recycling Campaign in Housing Estates and the Waste Separation and Recycling Scheme in Schools with technical and secretariat support from EPD.

For the Waste Recycling Campaign in Housing Estates, the ECC plays an active role in facilitating waste separation and recycling. Depending on the needs of each housing estate, the ECC provides sets of recycling bins and publicity material to the estates free of charge to encourage residents to do waste separation. Approximately 300 public and private housing estates are participating in this campaign.

EPD and the ECC have also hired Green groups and other voluntary agencies to help to organise carnivals, educational activities and workshops for the housing estate managers and the residents.

About \$1.47 million (6.2%) of the expenditure in Programme 7 is on waste recycling. ECC's campaign programmes are funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) and other donations. Funding for the Waste Recycling Campaign in Housing Estates in 2000/01 is being sought from the ECF.

To promote waste recycling in schools, EPD delivers many talks to school students and teachers and also distributes publicity and educational material on the subject. With help from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), the ECC has also organised a waste paper collection service for 100 schools.

In 2000/2001, the ECC plans to organise waste recycling of paper, aluminium cans and plastic bottles in 400 schools. The total cost of the bins involved is \$0.54 million, which is to be covered by private sponsorship, and the collection of the materials will be carried out by the private sector. The ECC hopes to extend the scheme to more schools in year 2001/02.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

EPD cites as one of its key performance indicators, the number of prosecutions it made.

- (a) What percentage of those prosecutions ended in a verdict for EPD?
- (b) In what percentage of successful prosecutions was EPD represented by a Counsel from the Department of Justice?
- (c) In what percentage of successful prosecutions did EPD receive legal advice or assistance from the Department of Justice?

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

About 1,700 prosecution cases were completed by EPD in 1999.

- a) 98% of the cases ended in a verdict for EPD;
- b) less than 1% of the cases (a total of 13 cases) involved Counsels from the Department of Justice (DoJ) or Counsels-on-Fiat assigned by the DoJ;
- c) no record is readily available, but it is estimated that in less than 10% of the cases EPD received legal advice or assistance from the DoJ, as in most cases (>90%) the defendants pleaded guilty.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Please indicate the funding allocated to ensure that monitoring stations comply with short and long-term Air Quality Objectives.
- (b) Why has the target for compliance dropped to 36% (short-term AQO's) and 50% (long-term AQO's) for the year 2000 plan?

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

- (a) To ensure 100% compliance with the short and long-term Air Quality Objectives, it is necessary to introduce various programmes as set out in last year's Policy Address by the Chief Executive to improve both local and regional air quality. To this end, the provision for the entire air programme was \$211.9 million in 1999/2000 and will be \$213.3 million in 2000/2001.
- (b) In 1999 the short-term AQO compliance was 14% and the long-term AQO compliance was 50%. Due to the implementation of various vehicle emission control measures, we expect that in 2000 compliance with the short-term AQOs should improve. Also, we believe the low compliance rate for 1999 was in part due to rather unusual and unfavourable weather conditions. The 36% compliance rate projection for 2000 is a rather conservative estimate and assumes that the weather in 2000 will not be particularly favourable as compared to 1999. Since the improvement in average air pollution levels is a more gradual process, we have conservatively projected that the compliance rate for the long term AQOs in 2000 will be similar to that of 1999, i.e. 50%.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB024

Question Serial No.

0016

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 42 – Electrical & Mechanical Services Department

Programme : 1 – Electrical, gas and nuclear safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In 2000-01, the Administration is going to examine gas safety standards and approve applications for construction of LPG filling stations and LPG vehicle maintenance workshop against such standards. What are the safety standards on which such examination is to be based?

Asked by : Hon. Raymond Ho Chung-tai, JP

Reply : The LPG filling stations and LPG vehicle workshops are Notifiable Gas Installations subject to the control of the Gas Safety Ordinance. Their construction and use require prior approval from the Gas Authority, who will examine in detail the design and construction of the stations and workshops to ensure that they comply with all safety requirements and standards. The safety requirements including Quantitative Risk Assessment for LPG filling stations are reviewed in line with international standards. A set of criteria has been developed to meet the local safety requirements and promulgated to the industry concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 11 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 113

Question Serial No.

0048

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme:(1) Food Safety and Public Health
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
(4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In the Estimates of Expenditure for 2000-01, what is the total expenditure of the Environment and Food Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on these areas after taking over the functions from the two Municipal Councils? How does it compare with the respective total expenditure of the two former Municipal Councils and Municipal Services Departments in the past two years?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply :

For the year 2000-01, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has included a provision of \$4,466.5 million for performing the functions under the four programme areas.

It is not possible to provide a direct comparison of FEHD's financial provision for 2000-01 with the expenditure under the Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs) in the past two years, major reasons being:

- (a) FEHD has taken on new and additional functions and responsibilities;
- (b) as the PMCs were financially autonomous, all expenditure pertaining to areas under their jurisdiction was borne by them. However, with the reorganization of municipal services and the setting up of FEHD, part of such expenditure is no longer necessary e.g. staff on-costs and part of such expenditure now comes under other Heads of expenditure e.g. building maintenance is now funded under Head 25 (Architectural Services Department);
- (c) for the year 1999-2000, there is only nine months expenditure under the PMCs as the reorganization of municipal services took place on 1 January 2000; and
- (d) the PMCs did not classify expenditure in the same way as FEHD's programme areas. Expenditure was classified under different select committees (14 in Provisional Urban Council (PUC) and 5 in Provisional Regional Council (Pro RC)). It is hence not possible to make a direct comparison.

Notwithstanding the above, expenditure for the PMCs in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 pertaining to food safety and environmental hygiene are provided below for reference:

	1998-99 (Full Year) \$m	April to December 1999 (Nine months) \$m
Expenditure pertaining to food safety and environmental hygiene	4,594	3,672

It should be noted that the above exclude common and administration expenses of the former PMCs which also supported leisure and cultural activities now under Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

It is also considered inappropriate to directly compare the expenditure of the Environment and Food Bureau (EFB) with that of the PMCs. EFB is a newly established policy bureau which deals with different policy areas. For the policy areas of "Food Supply and Food Safety" and "Environmental Hygiene", the proposed provisions for EFB for 2000-01 are \$17.4 million and \$16.1 million respectively. It should be noted that apart from FEHD, there are other departments which work also contributes to these policy areas, e.g. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department."

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date _____ 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 105

Question Serial No.

0050

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :
Subhead 149 General departmental expenses
Subhead 661 Minor Plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

1. Please explain whether the funding allocated to household waste collection includes the provision of facilities for separation of waste.
2. Please explain why there is an increased requirement for replacement of vehicles for environmental hygiene services

Asked by : The Honourable Christine Loh

Reply :

1. Facilities for separation of wastes i.e. bins for papers, aluminum cans and plastic bottles have been included in the funding allocated to household waste collection.
2. Replacement of refuse collection and mechanized cleansing vehicles is necessary for operational and road safety reasons. Since 1998/99, we have suspended the procurement of the refuse collection and mechanized cleansing vehicles in the urban area. In 2000/01, we need to replace some older vehicles which are found to be uneconomical to maintain.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 004

Question Serial No.

0214

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The number of seedlings produced, as estimated by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, has decreased from 962 000 in 1999 to 700 000 in 2000. What is the amount of saving in this respect as compared with 1999?

Asked by : The Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP

Reply :

Because of outsourcing of tree seedlings by Territory Development Department, our production of tree seedlings has decreased from 962 000 in 1999 to 700 000 in the year 2000. The decrease in production, together with the associated efficiency improvements, has resulted in an annual saving of some \$1.4 million resulting from the deletion of 10 posts (1 Field Assistant, 3 Artisans, 4 Workmen I and 2 Workmen II).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 002

Question Serial No.

0054

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (4) Animal and Plant Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : (a) In 1999-2000 and 2000-01, what are the 138 posts deleted from the establishment?

(b) What are the reasons for the above deletion of posts?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Wing-chan

Reply :

Of the 138 posts, 89 posts responsible for the import control of food animals were transferred to the newly formed Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. These are :

1 Senior Veterinary Officer	1 Senior Field Assistant
3 Veterinary Officers	43 Field Assistants
2 Senior Field Officers	5 Artisans
5 Field Officers I	13 Workmen I
15 Field Officers II	1 Motor Driver

Another 49 posts were deleted following the streamlining of large animal quarantine services and departmental administrative support services under the Enhanced Productivity Programme. The posts deleted are :

1 Engineer	39 Workmen I
1 Works Supervisor	2 Workmen II
2 Field Assistants	1 Personal Secretary I
2 Property Attendants	1 Co-operative Supervisor II

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

MRS LESSIE WEI

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
AND CONSERVATION

16 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 102

Question Serial No.

0281

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The financial provision in the estimate for the whole of the coming year is compared with the estimate for only one of the quarters in the previous year. Can the annual figure on expenditure of the former Municipal Councils last year under this programme be compared with the estimate of expenditure for the coming year so that the public will know the actual increase in provision?

Asked by : The Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP

Reply :

It will not be appropriate to make a direct comparison between Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's financial provision in 2000-01 under this programme with the expenditure under the two Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs) for 1999-2000, major reasons being:

- (a) with the re-organisation of municipal services and the setting up of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, some expenditure previously borne by the two Councils now comes under other Heads of Expenditure such as building maintenance is now funded under Head 25 (Architectural Services Department); and
- (b) for the year 1999-2000, there was only nine months expenditure under the PMCs as the re-organization of municipal services took place on 1 January 2000.

The expenditure directly related to market management and hawker control under the PMCs during these nine months was \$1,229 million which did not include common and administrative expenses of the former PMCs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date _____ 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 103

Question Serial No.

0282

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Can the figures on prosecutions of unlicensed hawkers and the number of successful cases in the past year be made available? With more than \$1.5 billion earmarked under this programme, which is a considerable input of resources, does the Department anticipate any improvement in the reduction of the number of unlicensed hawkers?

Asked by : The Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP

Reply :

In 1999, 47,858 prosecutions were taken out against unlicensed hawkers and there were 47,825 successful prosecutions. Only about \$770 million is allocated for the control of unlicensed hawkers under this programme. According to past experience, the number of unlicensed hawkers is often contingent upon the state of the economy. We will continue to try our best in curbing illegal hawking activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Miss Sarah WU

Post Title _____ Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene
(Acting)

Date _____ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB029

Question Serial No.

0383

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Site Formation and Reclamation

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please elaborate on the detailed design for environmental improvement works to Shing Mun River in terms of resources and time.

Asked by : Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP

Reply : The proposed environmental improvement works in Shing Mun River will adopt a combined strategy of bio-remediation and dredging of the polluted sediments. The detailed design will be carried out by in-house staff between March 2000 and December 2000. Site investigation will be carried out by a contractor at an estimated cost of \$ 0.7 million. A specialist consultant will be engaged to provide expert bio-remediation advice. The estimated fee of the consultancy is \$1.8 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Y. C. LO
Post Title	Director of Civil Engineering
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 95

Question Serial No.

0419

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Department plans to approach 100 schools for educating and promoting to the public about the importance of environmental hygiene and their responsibility in maintaining a clean and hygienic living environment.

Please give detailed information about the activities planned. Will the department in the long run increase the number of schools involved and the funding provision?

Asked by : The Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply : The Department intends to approach 100 schools to organize talks and other relevant activities targeted at students. The planned activities will focus on raising students' awareness of personal hygiene, the need to maintain a clean and hygienic living environment and good food safety practices. The format of our school visits and activities to be organized will be drawn up in consultation with school management. For 2000-01, \$1 million has been earmarked for such purpose. We will revise this programme in the light of experience in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB25

Question Serial No.

0433

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 42 - Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Programme : 3 – Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Policy Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please set out the details regarding the ranks, duties and expenditure of the 15 new posts created for energy conservation initiatives.

Asked : Professor the Honourable Ng Ching-fai

Reply : A total of 9 new posts, including 1 Chief Building Services Engineer, 2 Senior Building Services Engineers, 3 Assistant Building Services Engineers/Building Services Engineers, 1 Personal Secretary II and 2 Assistant Clerical Officers will be created for the various initiatives in the implementation of wider use of water cooled air-conditioning systems (WACS). The initiatives include the coordination for the pilot scheme of allowing use of fresh water for water cooling of air-conditioning systems in five designated districts, to monitor 12,000 existing non-registered cooling towers, to manage several detail studies of WACS; and in the long run, be responsible for implementing the policy of introducing WACS throughout the territory.

A Senior Engineer post and an Assistant Engineer/Engineer post will be created to develop a set of energy consumption indicators and benchmarks of selected commercial and transports sectors. The team will initially work with consultants to develop the framework for the compilation of these indicators and benchmarks and will subsequent promulgate the findings and carry out promotions in these sectors.

A Senior Engineer post and an Assistant Engineer/Engineer post will be created to administer the indoor air-quality measurement programme in government and to help build such capabilities in private sector.

A Senior Engineer post will be created to systematically pioneer the introduction of renewable energy in Hong Kong.

An Assistant Engineer/Engineer post will be created to carry out studies into the various aspects of introducing legislation on energy efficiency and conservation matters. These include whether energy labels should be mandatory, building energy codes should be mandatory etc.

The total estimated recurrent expenditure for 2000-01 is about \$4.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 17 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 010

Question Serial No.

0553

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In prior years, responses to questions regarding expenditures on consultants and outside contractors have resulted in vague responses such as :

“while we do not anticipate any immediate savings through contracting out services, the employment of contractors permits greater flexibility in varying the number of staff employed on the various types of services according to demand. We anticipate that this will result in savings in costs in the longer term, though it is difficult to quantify these savings.” (11 March 1999 response by the Director of Lands to question on consultants and contractors, Bureau Serial Number PEL 173).

This year, there has been \$70,800,000¹ included in the approved commitments and estimated 1999-2000 expenditures for various consultations by just the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department alone.

In light of the stated difficulty in quantifying savings through contracting out services, what criteria are established to ensure that the government and taxpayers are getting value for money?

¹

<u>Subhead (Code)</u>	<u>Item (Code)</u>	<u>Approved commitment</u>
		\$'000
700	545	8,000
	546	50,000
	547	4,500
	552	4,000
	554	3,000
	555	<u>1,300</u>
		70,800

Asked by : The Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

To ensure that the Government and tax payers are getting value for money, we would contract out services if it would achieve savings or specialised expertise not available within the Department is required. Appointment of consultants is also made only if specialised expertise is not available in the Department. Selection of consultants normally has to go through a competitive process in which both the technical assessments and fee proposals of several shortlisted consultants are carefully evaluated.

Once the consultancy is awarded, a Study Management Group, or Study Steering Group will be set up to monitor the progress of the consultancy, and to scrutinize the quality and services provided by the consultants. This would ensure that the consultant's services are up to standard and value for money.

Like all other government expenditures, the spending on consultancy services by the Department is subject to review by the Audit Commission.

The provision of \$70.8 million in the approved commitments and estimated 1999-2000 expenditures is for six consultancy studies – two on conservation and four on fisheries. All these studies require specialist expertise not available in the Department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 013

Question Serial No.

0554

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : (a) What is the establishment of staff who manage the Ramsar Site at Mai Po and Deep Bay? How much expenditure is involved? What percentage does this expenditure represent under this programme?
(b) Are there any mechanisms for cross-border conservation of wetlands? How much expenditure is involved?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

(a) The establishment of staff for managing the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site is as follows :

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Senior Forestry Officer	?*
Forestry Officer	2?*
Fisheries Officer	1
Senior Field Officer	?*
Field Officer I	2?*
Fisheries Technical Officer I	1
Senior Field Assistant	9

Total : 17

The estimated expenditure involved is \$6.1 M. It represents 2% of the expenditure under programme 2.

*The remaining half of the post concerned is related to fauna conservation work over the whole territory.

(b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department maintains contact with the Guangdong Neilingding Futian National Nature Reserve Administration (廣東內伶仃福田國家級自然保護區管理處) to exchange information and experience on wetland conservation. The exchange of information on wetland conservation will also be carried out through the "Hong Kong/Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection". The main expenditure will be on travelling expenses which is estimated to be \$600 for 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	17 MARCH 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead: -Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationBureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

- Question :
- (a) Following the ban on feeding monkeys in Kam Shan Country Park except by permit holders, how many people have successfully applied for a permit and become a permit holder? How many people have been warned or prosecuted for violating the rule? How effective is this measure?
 - (b) What new plans does the Government have to control the number of monkeys in the area? What is the amount of resources involved?
 - (c) Has the Government quarantined monkeys in the area? If so, how many times is this done yearly? What is the amount of resources involved?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kanReply :

- (a) 66 persons have been issued with permits to feed monkeys at specified sites. Since the introduction of the feeding ban in late July 1999, we have issued over 6,000 advice to members of the public seen attempting to feed/feeding monkeys, and 25 written warnings to those caught feeding monkeys a second time. No one was prosecuted.

The feeding ban has been effective. Complaints on monkey nuisances have dropped from 72 cases in the six months before the ban to 50 cases in six months since the ban. Monkeys are attracted to the specified feeding sites and they no longer gather around the bus-stops along that part of Tai Po Road. We plan to move the feeding sites further into the woodland gradually, and expect the number of complaints to decrease further.

- (b) With reduced human feeding following the feeding ban, the monkeys will revert to their natural birth rate which is expected to be lower than before. Moreover, we have started a trial contraceptive programme for the monkeys already kept in the Animal Centre. A sum of \$3,500 has been earmarked for the trial programme. If it is found effective, the programme will be extended to control the number of monkeys in the wild.
- (c) No quarantine work for the monkeys has been conducted in the area. Up to the present, there has been no record of disease infection in Hong Kong due to monkey bites and scratches. Blood samples will be taken for examination of disease vectors when the trial contraceptive programme is implemented.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	17 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB26

Question Serial No.

0642

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 42 - Electrical & Mechanical Services Department

Programme : 3 – Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Policy Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please set out the titles, ranks and duties of the 15 posts created under programme (3).

Asked : The Hon. Wong Yung-kan

Reply : A total of 9 new posts, including 1 Chief Building Services Engineer, 2 Senior Building Services Engineers, 3 Assistant Building Services Engineers/Building Services Engineers, 1 Personal Secretary II and 2 Assistant Clerical Officers will be created for the various initiatives in the implementation of wider use of water cooled air-conditioning systems (WACS). The initiatives include the coordination for the pilot scheme of allowing use of fresh water for water cooling of air-conditioning systems in five designated districts, to monitor 12,000 existing non-registered cooling towers, to manage several detail studies of WACS; and in the long run, be responsible for implementing the policy of introducing WACS throughout the territory.

- A Senior Engineer post and an Assistant Engineer/Engineer post will be created to develop a set of energy consumption indicators and benchmarks of selected commercial and transports sectors. The team will initially work with consultants to develop the framework for the compilation of these indicators and benchmarks and will subsequent promulgate the findings and carry out promotions in these sectors.
- A Senior Engineer post and an Assistant Engineer/Engineer post will be created to administer the indoor air-quality measurement programme in government and to help build such capabilities in private sector.
- A Senior Engineer post will be created to systematically pioneer the introduction of renewable energy in Hong Kong.
- An Assistant Engineer/Engineer post will be created to carry out studies into the various aspects of introducing legislation on energy efficiency and conservation matters. These include whether energy labels should be mandatory, building energy codes should be mandatory etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 17 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB27

Question Serial No.

0643

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Programme : 3 - Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please set out the contents of the energy consumption survey for Hong Kong's household. When will the survey begin and when will it end?

Asked by : The Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The Household Energy Consumption Survey aims at collecting details of energy consumption in Hong Kong. From the Survey, information about the average energy consumption per household for different fuels (electricity, town gas, LPG, kerosene) as well as the penetration rate of different kinds of energy-consuming appliances will be obtained. Energy consumption rate of major energy-consuming appliances will also be derived by analytical means.

The information obtained and derived from the Survey will be used to enhance the accuracy of the updating work of the Hong Kong Energy End-use Database developed in 1995.

The Survey is expected to commence in the second half of 2000 and to be completed by early 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 16 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB28

Question Serial No.

0644

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 42 – Electrical & Mechanical Services Department

Programme: 3-Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please set out the contents of the consultancy study on developing energy consumption indices for Hong Kong? When will the survey begin and when will it end?

Asked by : The Honourable WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The Energy Consumption Indicator and Benchmark Consultancy Study will target at certain selected energy-consuming groups in the commercial and transport sectors and for each group and its sub-groups, appropriate energy consumption indicators and benchmarks will be developed.

One major aspect of the study is that field surveys will be conducted to gather actual energy consumption and related data from sufficient numbers of representative samples in each group and sub-group in order to derive their respective energy consumption indicators and benchmarks, as well as improvement opportunities in common. The benchmarks are those of the best practices in energy usage. Individual energy users within a group or sub-group would be compared with the group or sub-group benchmarks to identify the respective improvement opportunities.

The benchmarking and the statistics of the energy consumption indicators of the representative samples would be useful to the Administration for setting targets for energy efficiency improvements of the respective groups. The methodology used in the report could be shared with the public.

The study is expected to commence in late 2000 and to be completed by early 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 17 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB023

Question Serial No.

0646

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 42 - Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Programme : 1- Electrical, gas and nuclear safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What is EMSD's expenditure on LPG vehicle safety in 2000-01? Please provide a breakdown of the expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. Chan Kam-lam

Reply : The recurrent expenditure of "LPG Vehicle Safety" in 2000-01 is about \$4.2M comprising of salaries and general departmental expenses of \$4M and \$0.2M respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **LEUNG CHAM TIM** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **16 March, 2000** _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB030

Question Serial No.

0648

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Site Formation and Reclamation

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Apart from the existing public filling areas, what other areas will be identified as public filling areas to maximise the reuse of construction and demolition waste ? Apart from public filling, are there any means to reuse construction and demolition waste ? How much resources has been allocated for this purpose ?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : To provide additional public filling capacity, Tseung Kwan O Town Centre Phase 3 Stage II Reclamation, Penny's Bay Stage I & II Reclamation and Tuen Mun Area 38 Stage II Reclamation are being planned to operate from early 2001 onwards in stages. Reclamation projects in the feasibility stage that may provide further public filling capacity include Tung Chung & Tai Ho Development Phase 3 & 4 and South East Kowloon Reclamation. Moreover, it is planned to commence a consultancy study in late 2000 on providing a long term public filling outlet.

Apart from public filling, the following three initiatives are being implemented to promote the re-use of construction and demolition (C&D) material :

- (a) The sorting facility in Tseung Kwan O Area 137 which will start operation in August 2000 will handle 1,500 tonnes of C&D material daily. This is a temporary facility to carry out initial sorting to derive some inert C&D material for reuse as filling and construction materials.
- (b) Works departments are examining the feasibility of using sorted C&D material as hardcore and sub-base for road pavement.
- (c) A working group has also been formed to examine the feasibility to review works specification to allow the use of recycled aggregate in concrete.

The cost estimate for the consultancy study on long term public filling outlet is \$5M. The estimated construction cost for the sorting facility in Tseung Kwan O Area 137 is \$25M. The cost implication for using C&D material in road pavement will be determined on completion of the feasibility study. Amendment to works specification is not expected to have material cost impact.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y. C. LO

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB128

Question Serial No.

690

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head **100 Marine Department**

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much funding does the Government earmark for scavenging harbour refuse and what measures will be implemented?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : \$45.8 million will be allocated for Marine Department in 2000-01 financial year for clearing the marine refuse at the harbour, including marine refuse collection and scavenging services.

Marine Department scavenges and collects marine refuse through a combined fleet of 13 government launches and 57 contractors' vessels.

To tackle the harbour refuse problem, the Marine Department adopts a three-pronged approach :

- (a) Prevention - it is believed that the best solution to marine refuse is to prevent the refuse from getting into the sea. This is achieved by carrying out various educational activities to enhance the public's awareness of keeping the harbour clean.
- (b) Collection - we always look for opportunities to enhance the services, e.g., setting up of additional marine refuse collection points at strategic locations to reduce the travelling time of the vessels to land the refuse, and establishing shore cranes at the collection points to enhance the efficiency of the services.
- (c) Enforcement - step up action to prosecute "litter-bugs". This exercise is complementary to prevention and collection.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

Post Title

Date

S. Y. TSUI

Director of Marine

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 125

Question Serial No.

0827

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 149 General departmental expenses

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01 for Programme (2) states that the department will make visible improvements in public cleansing. Please inform this Council

- how much resource will be allocated on improving public cleansing in 2000?
- what actions will be taken to achieve "make visible improvements in public cleansing" especially on tourist areas?

Asked by : The Hon Howard Young, J.P.

Reply :

The Department has earmarked \$1,988.8 million for the provision of public cleansing services in 2000-01. We aim to achieve visible improvements in public cleansing including tourist areas by

- (a) reviewing the standard of cleanliness and related performance pledges such as the frequencies for streets to be swept, litter containers to be emptied and toilets to be cleansed;
- (b) incorporating penalty clauses in all cleansing contracts for markets and public toilets to ensure that contractors' performance is up to the required standard;
- (c) conducting surprise site inspections to check and monitor performance; and
- (d) taking prompt actions in response to complaints.

Signature

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 116

Question Serial No.

1024

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

How much funding will be earmarked for the control of unlicensed hawkers? On what basis are the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers and the number of raids worked out?

Asked by : The Hon Mr WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

About \$770 million will be allocated for the control of unlicensed hawkers in 2000-01. The estimated number of unlicensed hawkers is based on periodic surveys conducted by the department. Enforcement and raiding actions on illegal hawking activities and unlicensed hawkers are undertaken as part of the daily operations of the district hawker control force having regard to the number of unlicensed hawkers and their mode of operation as well as the location of illegal hawking blackspots.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU _____

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene
(Acting) _____

Date 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 117

Question Serial No.

1025

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please give details of the review on the management of market facilities and on the mechanism for market stall rental adjustments. When will the review commence and when will it be completed?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The review on the management of market facilities will include, among other things, an examination of the cost-effectiveness of the present management and maintenance of all public markets. The review will also include recommendations as to whether, and if so how improvements could be made to enhance the management of public markets. As for the review on the mechanism for market stall rental adjustment, the Department will study the mechanism previously adopted by the two Provisional Municipal Councils with a view to arriving at a fair and uniform mechanism applicable to all market stalls in the territory. We have recently started the reviews and aim to have them completed as soon as possible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene
(Acting)

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 118

Question Serial No.

1026

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources will the Government set aside for conducting a survey to assess the level of public knowledge in the area of food safety? Please provide detailed information of the survey. When will the survey commence? When will it finish?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The Department has set aside \$200,000 for conducting a survey to assess the level of public knowledge on food safety. The survey will include questions to find out the respondents' knowledge of food safety, the best channels for dissemination of information to enable consumers to make informed choices, the community's views on specific issues such as food labelling, etc. The survey is planned to be launched and completed in last quarter of this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU _____

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting) _____

Date 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 119

Question Serial No.

1027

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources will the Government set aside for launching a multi-media campaign to promote public awareness of the importance of food safety and environmental hygiene? Please provide detailed information of the campaign. When will it be launched? When will it finish and what effectiveness can it achieve?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : We plan to launch a multi-media campaign to enhance public awareness of the importance of food safety and environmental hygiene. We have set aside \$6 million for this purpose. We will be discussing with the Environment and Food Bureau and other bureaux and departments concerned on how to take this forward and we have not arrived at any details at this stage.

The effectiveness of the campaign could be assessed by the extent of public involvement and public awareness of the importance of food safety and maintaining a high standard of environmental hygiene.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU _____

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene (Acting) _____

Date 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 107

Question Serial No.

1089

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : In 2000, the Department will organise a programme of community involvement activities with a view to enlisting public support in keeping a clean and hygienic living environment. What are the details and estimated expenditure of the programme? Are there any co-organisers?

Asked by : The Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : We plan to launch a series of community involvement and public education activities in the coming year to enlist more public support in keeping our living environment clean and enhance the community's awareness of the importance of food safety.

We have set aside \$5 million for the purpose and will be discussing with the Environment and Food Bureau and other bureaux and departments concerned. We have yet to draw up the details including any co-organisers for these activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and Environmental
Hygiene (Acting)

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB127

Question Serial No.

1154

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head **100 Marine Department** **Subhead(No. & title) :**

Programme : (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : With regard to the new Oil Spill Response Plan mentioned under Programme (2), how much provision has been allocated for this item? When will the plan be fully implemented? What is the maximum amount of spilt oil that the plan can cope with?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : \$3.9 million will be allocated for Marine Department in 2000-01 financial year to develop the new Maritime Oil Spill Response Plan. The new plan is scheduled for implementation before the end of 2000.

The Plan set out actions in different scenarios of oil spills that may occur in Hong Kong waters. It is estimated that the largest oil tanker that might spill oil in Hong Kong would be of 65 000 tonnes. This would be the worst oil spill scenario that the Plan will be able to look after.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

Post Title

Date

S. Y. TSUI

Director of Marine

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 109

Question Serial No.

1181

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Please provide the financial and manpower provision for the respective areas of (a) public cleansing services; (b) licensing, inspecting and ensuring hygiene condition of food premises; and (c) managing cremation and burial facilities.
- (b) How many times would each food premises in different categories be inspected on average in 2000?

Asked by : Dr the Hon. LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply :

- (a) The financial and manpower provision for 2000-01 allocated directly to these activities is set out below -

	<u>Financial provision</u> \$M	<u>Manpower provision</u> No. of posts
Public cleansing services	1,988.8	8,527
Licensing, inspecting and ensuring hygiene condition of food premises	185.5	431
Managing cremation and burial facilities	98.5	256

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 110

Question Serial No.

1182

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please provide the financial and manpower provision for the respective areas of (a) managing, maintaining and inspecting public markets; and (b) licensing and controlling hawking activities.

Asked by : Dr the Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply :

The financial and manpower provision for 2000-01 is set out below:

	<u>Financial Provision</u>	<u>Manpower Provision</u>
	(\$)	(No. of Posts)
(a) Managing, maintaining and inspecting public markets	421.1M	611
(b) Licensing and controlling hawking activities	1 100.6M	4 479

Signature _____

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and
Environmental Hygiene
(Acting)

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 016

Question Serial No.

1225

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Animal and Plant Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : The Government sharply reduces staff and expenditure under this programme. In this connection, what arrangements will the Government make to achieve the aim of inspection of livestock and plants as mentioned in "matters requiring attention"? What is the number of staff engaged in these duties at present? What is the establishment? What is the amount of expenditure involved? What percentage does it account for in expenditure under this programme?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Provision for 2000-01 is \$12.1 million (8.0%) lower than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to the transfer of 89 posts responsible for the import control of food animals to the newly formed Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. There is also full-year savings arising from the deletion of another 45 posts in 1999-2000 and 4 posts in 2000-01 following the streamlining of large animal quarantine services and departmental administrative support services. These changes do not affect our regular inspection services on livestock and plants.

Currently, there are 3 Veterinary Officers, 2 Veterinary Technologists, 1 Senior Field Officer, 8 Veterinary Laboratory Technician I, 13 Veterinary Laboratory Technician II, 5 Field Officer I, 6 Field Officer II, 8 Laboratory Attendants, 3 Field Assistants and 1 Workman I undertaking livestock inspection and testing. Seven staff are engaged in plant inspection work comprising 1 Senior Field Officer, 1 Field Officer I, 3 Field Officer II, 1 Field Assistant and 1 Clerical Assistant.

The total expenditure on livestock and plant inspection is \$19.1 million. It accounts for 13.7% of the total expenditure for this programme in 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 44 – Environmental Protection Department

Programme : (2) & (3) Air & Noise

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In prior years, responses to questions regarding expenditures on consultants and outside contractors have resulted in vague responses such as:

"while we do not anticipate any immediate savings through contracting out services, the employment of contractors permits greater flexibility in varying the number of staff employed on the various types of services according to demand. We anticipate that this will result in savings in costs in the longer term, though it is difficult to quantify these savings". (11 March 1999 response by the Director of Lands to question on consultants and contractors, Bureau Serial Number PEL173).

This year, there has been \$22,700,000¹ included in the approved commitments and estimated 1999-2000 expenditures for various consultations by just Environmental Protection Department alone.

In light of the stated difficulty in quantifying savings through contracting out services, what criteria are established to ensure that the government and taxpayers are getting value for money?

<u>¹Subhead (Code)</u>	<u>Item (Code)</u>	Approved Commitment
700	540	\$'000
	544	3,800
	548	2,200
	550	15,000
		<u>1,700</u>
		<u>22,700</u>

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

Apart from potential cost savings, we would consider to employ consultants to deal with fluctuations in workload, and where we require independent and/or specialist multi-disciplinary advice.

When contracting out services to consultants, EPD follows the normal government procedures laid down by the Engineering and Associated Consultants Selection Board for the selection of consultants and the evaluation of their performance on each assignment. They are devised with the very aim to ensure that the government and taxpayers are getting value for money. Key measures include the following:-

- (a) During the selection process, each study proposal is assessed on both technical merit and costs such that the assignment is awarded to the consultant with the highest overall score;
 - (b) Fees are paid in stages upon satisfactory completion of pre-determined milestone tasks under the study programme. Regular appraisal of the performance of the consultant is also conducted during the course of the assignment and such reports are submitted to the Engineering and Associated Consultants Selection Board;
- (c) Output of the assignment are scrutinized jointly by senior officers of the lead department and other relevant departments and bureaux to ensure both the quality of the work output and value for money.

For the vast majority of consultancies commissioned by EPD, the output of the assignments are also distributed widely for review by third parties, including various advisory committees, interested academics and community interests groups. Their feedback would also assist the department to assess the standard of the consultants' output to ensure that value for money is achieved.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB129

Question Serial No.

1308

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head **100 Marine Department** **Subhead(No. & title) :**

Programme : (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

: (a) How much resources will be reserved by the Government for marine refuse collection and scavenging services?

 (b) Please state the establishment of the new Maritime Oil Spill Response Plan in detail. How much resources will be reserved by the Government for tackling incidents of oil spillage at sea?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : (a) \$45.8 million will be allocated for Marine Department in 2000-01 financial year for providing marine refuse collection and scavenging services.

(b) The Director of Audit conducted a Value for Money Study Review on our Maritime Oil Pollution Contingency Planning in 1997. The Review, which was completed in February 1998, considers that Marine Department's (MD) current Oil Pollution Contingency Plan (OPCP) is sub-optimal and has made a number of recommendations to improve MD's response capability in dealing with major oil spill incidents.

In July 1998, the Administration established a Steering Committee, chaired by the then Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau to oversee the implementation of the Director of Audit's recommendations. The main purpose for the establishment of the new Maritime Oil Spill Response Plan (MOSRP) is to enable us to respond to oil pollution incidents in an efficient and responsive manner. A Working Group, chaired by Marine Department, was also set up in 1998 to assist the Steering Committee.

\$8.1 million will be allocated for Marine Department in 2000-01 financial year to combat oil spill at sea and develop the new Maritime Oil Spill Response Plan.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

Post Title

Date

S. Y. TSUI

Director of Marine

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB92

Question Serial No.

1349

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 705 – Civil Engineering

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please give the details of sub-head 5039DP, including development plan, date of submitting application for allocation of fund and completion date.

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A sum of \$9,780 million has been reserved under item 5039DP of the Capital Works Reserve Fund (Cat. B) for the development of two waste-to-energy incinerators with an overall capacity of 6,000 tonnes per day.

Under item 5039DP, we intend to apply for funding for the preparation of tender documents for the first incinerator project in 2001 and we plan to apply for funding approval for the construction works in 2003 so that tenders can be invited in the same year. Assuming tenders can be awarded in 2004, we intend to commission the first waste-to-energy incinerator in 2008. The second waste-to-energy incinerator is expected to be commissioned 3 years after the first one has commenced operation.

(Robert J. S. Law)
Director of Environmental Protection
17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB126

Question Serial No.

1347

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 703 - Buildings Subhead : 3006 NB Extension of Kwai Chung Crematorium

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please provide details of Subhead 3006NB, including the development plan, the date of funding submission and the date of completion.

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The project involves adding new cremator facilities to the existing crematorium. It is currently in Category B of the Public Works Programme. We plan to seek funding approval from the Public Works Subcommittee and Finance Committee in mid 2000. Subject to funding approval, construction is tentatively scheduled to commence in late 2000 and is expected to complete within 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters S.H. PAU _____

Post Title Director of Architectural Services _____

Date 16 March 2000 _____