

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 002

Question Serial No.

0017

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 & Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Economic Services

Question: The Administration is going to conduct follow-up consultancy studies in interconnection and competition in the electricity supply sector in Hong Kong in 2000-01. What areas will be looked into the consultancy study? What is the estimated expenditure on the consultancy studies?

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

Reply: Public comments are being sought on the consultants' report in respect of the Study on Interconnection and Competition in the Hong Kong Electricity Sector. The Administration will consider the way forward taking into account the comments received. We envisage that further consultancy studies on reliability, engineering, structural and regulatory issues would be required e.g. detailed engineering studies on system capability and planning criteria for electricity generation and transmission under an increased interconnection scenario, and studies on the feasibility of routing and timing for the construction of new interconnectors.

We have earmarked \$9 million in the 2000-01 draft Estimates for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 11 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB003

Question Serial No.

0019

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 : (1) Tourism and Recreational Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : It is noted that there will be an increase of 36 posts resulting from the creation of posts and staff redeployment for the proposed theme park development project in Northeast Lantau. Please specify the posts and their job nature.

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

Reply : The 36 posts include 4 Senior Engineers, 1 Senior Geotechnical Engineer, 1 Senior Landscape Architect, 8 Engineers, 1 Geotechnical Engineer, and 21 supporting technical, administrative, accounting and clerical staff. They are responsible for the planning, overall management and delivery of all land formation, infrastructural and associated works for the development of the proposed theme park project and other development in Northeast Lantau.

Signature

Name in block letters

Y. C. LO

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB004

Question Serial No.

0206

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 : (1) Tourism and Recreational Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : It is noted that there will be an increase of 36 posts in the new financial year under this programme. What are the ranks of these posts? Are they offered permanent and pensionable terms?

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

Reply : The 36 posts include 4 Senior Engineers, 1 Senior Geotechnical Engineer, 1 Senior Landscape Architect, 8 Engineers, 1 Geotechnical Engineer, and 21 supporting technical, administrative, accounting and clerical staff. These are serving officers who have been deployed from within the Civil Engineering Department and other offices of the government. They are employed on permanent and pensionable terms.

Signature

Name in block letters

Y. C. LO

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB005

Question Serial No.

0207

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 : (2) Port and Marine Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Research studies on the design of seawalls and reclamation and the use of rubber fenders at seawall landings have been completed. When will the Civil Engineering Department announce the results and whether the recommendations of the studies will be adopted? If the recommendations are to be adopted, what will be the cost implications?

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

Reply : The study reports on the design of seawalls and reclamation, and the use of rubber fenders at seawall landings are being finalized for release as technical notes in June 2000. The recommendations of these studies will be adopted. The recommendations on the use of rubber fenders at seawall landings will result in an overall saving of about 15% in terms of capital and maintenance costs. The rest of the recommendations are refinements to the design of seawalls and reclamation and estimated to have no additional cost implication.

Signature

Name in block letters

Y. C. LO

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 006

Question Serial No.

0208

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 28 Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General Other
Non-Recurrent

Programme : (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Aviation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Who will take over the job after the contracts of the 16 temporary Air Traffic Control Officers II expire in the new financial year and will new posts be created for this purpose? Will these posts be created on a long-term basis and how much will the expenditure be?

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

Reply : The 16 temporary Air Traffic Control Officer (ATCO) II posts were established to fill the severe shortfall in manpower during the relocation of the airport, and to cater for the increase in workload when the new airport was opened in 1998. They were filled by officers recruited from overseas. Since 1998, the Civil Aviation Department has met its recruitment and training targets for its locally recruited ATCOs. There is sufficient manpower under the existing establishment to cater for the current workload. Hence, when the contracts of the 16 temporary ATCO II posts expire, it will not be necessary to create any new posts as replacement.

Signature

Name in block letters ALBERT K Y LAM

Post Title Director of Civil Aviation

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 007

Question Serial No.

0209

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 28 Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Aviation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : The Civil Aviation Department will monitor preparations for the introduction of new helicopters by Government Flying Service in the new financial year, has the Administration examined whether it could achieve saving in expenditure if it commissions the task to a consultant company or puts it under the charge of Government Flying Service?

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

Reply : The powers and duties to monitor aircraft operation provided under the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order are delegated by the Chief Executive to the Civil Aviation Department (CAD). It is therefore CAD's responsibility as a regulator, which is in line with international practice, to monitor the preparations for the introduction of new helicopters by the Government Flying Service (GFS). The purpose is to ensure aviation safety.

Transferring this role to GFS may result in a mixing of the roles of operator and regulator. As regards the possibility of transferring the monitoring work to a consultant, the number of competent consultants is small and their fees may be higher. At present, CAD is already required to oversee the operations of commercial and private helicopters. From the perspective of Government expenditures, it would be more cost-effective for CAD to monitor GFS helicopters, when compared with commissioning the task to a consultant company or putting it under the charge of GFS.

Signature

Name in block letters ALBERT K Y LAM

Post Title Director of Civil Aviation

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 008

Question Serial No.

0251

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 145 Government Secretariat: Economic Services Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Travel & Tourism

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : The Guangdong Provincial Tourism Bureau has reportedly stated that Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macau could be developed into a "Guangdong-HongKong-Macau Tourism Region." Does the Economic Services Bureau have any related programmes on hand? If yes, what is the provision earmarked for this purpose?

Asked by : Hon. James Tien Pei-chun

Reply :

The Administration has developed a strategic partnership with the Guangdong Provincial Government and established the Guangdong/Hong Kong Joint Co-operation Conference in 1998. The Secretary for Economic Services is a core member of the Hong Kong team. We have implemented some tourism related projects approved by the Joint Conference with no additional resources implication on the part of the Administration.

Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA) together with tourism authorities of Macau and Guangdong formed the Pearl River Delta Tourism Marketing Organisation in 1993. The main aim of the Organisation is to jointly promote tourism in the Pearl River Delta Region. The Organisation has been extensively involved in major international travel trade shows and launched a series of promotional activities including familiarisation trips to attract visitors. It has organised travel roadshows and promoted tour products in Australia, Europe and the USA. HKTA's worldwide offices and representations have also been working closely with their counterparts from the Mainland to organise various activities to promote the distinct Pearl River Delta concept. HKTA, which is subvented by the Government, will spend about \$2 million on the above marketing activities in 2000-01.

Signature

Name in block letters

STEPHEN IP

Post Title

Secretary for Economic Services

Date

15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 009

Question Serial No.

0260

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 177 Subventions: Non-departmental Public Bodies Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Subvention: Hong Kong Tourist Association

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Does the Hong Kong Tourist Association have any promotional programmes to attract overseas visitors to visit Hong Kong as well during their trip to Mainland China? If yes, what is the provision earmarked for this purpose?

Asked by : Hon. James Tien Pei-chun

Reply:

Hong Kong Tourist Association together with tourism authorities of Macau and Guangdong formed the Pearl River Delta Tourism Marketing Organisation in 1993 to jointly promote tourism in the Pearl River Delta region. The Organisation has been extensively involved in major international trade shows and launched a series of promotional activities including familiarisation trips to attract visitors. The organisation has organised travel roadshows and promoted tour products in Australia, Europe and the USA. HKTA's worldwide offices and representations have also been working closely with their counterparts from the Mainland to organise various activities to promote the distinct Pearl River Delta concept. HKTA will spend \$2 million on the above marketing activities in 2000-01.

The Association has also signed co-operative agreements with tourism authorities in Beijing, Yunnan and Sichuan to promote multi-destination tourism.

Signature

Name in block letters

STEPHEN IP

Post Title

Secretary for Economic Services

Date

March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 010

Question Serial No.

0266

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

Head 177 Subventions: Non-departmental Public Bodies

Subhead (No. & title) : 443 Hong Kong Tourist Association

Programme : Subvention: Hong Kong Tourist Association

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

- Question : (a) In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01, the Administration states that it will continue to work to enhance tourist-related infrastructure. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the substantive items mainly included in the infrastructure and the rough estimate of the cost required?
- (b) In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01, the Administration states that it will maintain co-operation with the Mainland of China and further develop it as a complementary destination for long-haul visitors, particularly European markets. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the specific measures in this respect and the funding involved?

Asked by : Hon. Sin Chung Kai

Reply :

- (a) Funded under Head 177 Subventions : Non-departmental Public Bodies, the Hong Kong Tourist Association has launched/will launch the following projects –
- (i) pilot tourist signage schemes in Stanley and Central at \$2.5 million and \$1 million respectively;
 - (ii) development of a web-based Hotel Development Information System at about \$0.5 million; and
 - (iii) development of an Interface Network of Automated Ticketing Systems for overseas customers at \$3.85 million;

The Administration is separately undertaking other improvements to tourist-related infrastructure. These include –

- (i) a pilot scheme for tourist district enhancement scheme in Central and Western District at an estimated project cost of \$60.4 million funded under Head 708 – Capital Subvention and Major Systems and Equipment. Works for this project will commence in April 2000 for completion in early 2003; and

- (ii) construction of an International Wetland Park at an estimated project cost of \$519.5 million. This project is funded under Head 703 – Buildings. Construction will be completed in 2004.
- (b) Hong Kong Tourist Association together with tourism authorities of Macau and Guangdong formed the Pearl River Delta Tourism Marketing Organisation in 1993 to jointly promote tourism in the Pearl River Delta region. The Organisation has been extensively involved in major international trade shows and launched a series of promotional activities including familiarisation trips to attract visitors. The organisation has organised travel roadshows and promoted tour products in Australia, Europe and the USA. HKTA's worldwide offices and representations have also been working closely with their counterparts from the Mainland to organise various activities to promote the distinct Pearl River Delta concept. HKTA will spend \$2 million on the above marketing activities in 2000-01.

The Association has also signed co-operative agreements with tourism authorities in Beijing, Yunnan and Sichuan to promote multi-destination tourism.

Signature

Name in block letters

STEPHEN IP

Post Title

Secretary for Economic Services

Date

15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB011

Question Serial No.

0450

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 145 - Government Secretariat Economic Services Bureau Subhead (No. & title): 700

Programme : (1) Air and Sea Communications

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : What measures will the Economic Services Bureau take in the new Financial Year to ensure that the handling charges of our container terminals are maintained at reasonable levels so as to protect the consignors from being overcharged by the Liner Conferences and container terminals? What is the amount of manpower and resources to be involved in the implementation of those measures?

Asked by : The Honourable Kenneth Ting Woo-shou

Reply : The Economic Services Bureau has been facilitating the dialogue between members of the Hong Kong Liner Conferences and the Hong Kong Shippers Council (HKSC) on the issue of Terminal Handling Charges (THC).

As a result of the discussions, the Liner Conferences have provided a list of cost components of THC to the HKSC and have agreed to extend the notification period on rate adjustments, including THC from the current 30 days to 45 – 60 days. The most recent discussions between the HKSC and Conferences have led to an understanding to continue to freeze THC rates until May 2001.

Under Head 145 “Government Secretariat: Economic Services Bureau”, \$3.7 million has been included in the Draft Estimates 2000-2001 for dedicated senior staff to support the work of the Port and Maritime Board. Their work covers port development improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the port and improving consultation between port providers and users such as shippers and shipping conferences in matters such as THC.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : STEPHEN IP

Post Title : Secretary for Economic Services

Date : 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB012

Question Serial No.

0457

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <u>Head</u> | : 145 Government Secretariat Economic Services Bureau | <u>Subhead</u> (No. & title) : |
| <u>Programme</u> | : (2) Posts and Power | |
| <u>Controlling Officer</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Policy Secretary</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Question</u> | : In Programme (2), the Administration states that it will follow up on the feasibility study of encouraging greater competition in the power sector during 2000-01. In this connection, please inform me of : | |
| | (a) the objectives and content of the follow-up; and whether the follow-up will include another study on interconnection in the electricity supply sector; | |
| | (b) the time required for the completion of the follow-up; | |
| | (c) the effects expected; and | |
| | (d) the resources allocated to this job? | |
| <u>Asked by</u> | : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong | |
| <u>Reply</u> | : Public comments are being sought on the consultants' report in respect of the Study on Interconnection and Competition in the Hong Kong Electricity Supply Sector. The Administration will consider the way forward taking into account the comments received. We envisage that further consultancy studies on reliability, engineering, structural and regulatory issues would be required e.g. detailed engineering studies on system capability and planning criteria for electricity generation and transmission under an increased interconnection scenario, and studies on the routing and timing for the construction of new interconnectors. We hope to be able to start some of these studies in the coming few months. We would be in a better position to estimate the duration of these studies after their scope is finalised. | |

We have earmarked \$9 million in the 2000-01 draft Estimates for this purpose in the non-recurrent account under Head 42 - Electrical & Mechanical Services Department. In the light of anticipated increase in workload within Economic Services Bureau arising from these studies and other power related matters, more staff time will be spent on energy issues. The apportionment of staff and central administration expenses for Programme (2) - Posts and Power under Head 145 -

Government Secretariat : Economic Services Bureau is increased by about \$500,000 in the 2000-01 draft Estimates.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : STEPHEN IP

Post Title : Secretary for Economic Services

Date : 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB013

Question Serial No.

0501

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

Head 145 - Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : -
Economic Services Bureau

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : It was announced in the Budget that the responsibility for consumer protection and competition policy would be transferred from the Trade and Industry Bureau to the Economic Services Bureau. Will the establishment of the Economic Services Bureau be changed? And has any provision been made in this regard?

Asked by : The Hon James Tien Pei-chun, JP

Reply : In ESB's 2000-01 draft Estimates, we have not included provision for additional posts or recurrent expenditure resulting from the additional responsibility for consumer protection and competition policy. We intend to submit in due course detailed proposals to the Establishment Subcommittee and Finance Committee for approval.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN IP

Post Title Secretary for Economic Services

Date 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 014

Question Serial No.

0536

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head 145 - Government Secretariat:
Economic Services Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : 14501 Air and Sea Communications

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01, would the Administration inform this Council

- How much resource will be allocated to further develop Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre? What are the plans?
- How much resource will be allocated to improve efficiency in existing port operations? What are the plans?

Asked by : The Hon Howard Young

Reply : **International and Regional Aviation Centre**

The Government is committed to further developing Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre. In addition to a wide range of initiatives taken by the Airport Authority to enhance the competitiveness of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), we are implementing measures to enhance flight safety and efficiency and to expand our aviation network.

On flight safety, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will further strengthen its system for monitoring aircraft, operators and maintenance organisations to ensure compliance with international standards. It will also regularly review the procedures, staff deployment and training in the provision of air traffic control services. In addition the CAD is undertaking studies and trials of the satellite-based Communications, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management systems, which would improve flight safety and efficiency in a comprehensive manner upon their gradual introduction.

For the purpose of expanding Hong Kong's aviation network, the Government has adopted a liberal air services policy. To develop new air links, we will negotiate and conclude more Air Services Agreements with new aviation partners. We

will also review the traffic arrangements with existing aviation partners from time to time in the light of market developments. The objective is to expand Hong Kong's aviation network continuously, so as to enhance Hong Kong's status as an international and regional aviation centre.

As far as Head 145 "Government Secretariat: Economic Services Bureau" is concerned, we have included \$9.6 million in the Draft Estimates 2000-2001 for dedicated staff to handle matters relating to civil aviation (including the HKIA) and air services negotiations.

Port Operation

A number of measures are being taken to improve the efficiency of Hong Kong port operations. The tendering exercise for the construction of Container Terminal 9 (CT9) has been completed and works are expected to commence in May this year. These include the dredging of Rambler Channel to a depth of 15.5m enabling all container terminals of Kwai Chung to handle the largest container ships presently envisaged. The cost of this dredging work is estimated to be about \$365 million. Upon completion of CT9 in 2004, the 6 additional berths will be able to handle 2.6 million Twenty-feet Equivalent Units (TEU's) each year.

To further improve the efficiency of existing port facilities, we are conducting a Study on Port Back-up Facilities and Land Requirements and a Study on Developing Hong Kong as a Replenishment Port at a combined cost of \$4,664,700.

Initiatives taken to enable more efficient movement of cargo to and from the port such as the recent increase of 10 inspection kiosks at the Lok Ma Chau Boundary Checkpoint will be supplemented by the introduction of a customs pre-clearance system at the end of March. These measures will reduce queuing time of container trucks at the boundary and lower the operating costs for the transportation industry.

Under Head 145 "Government Secretariat: Economic Services Bureau", we have included \$4.3 million in the Draft Estimates 2000-2001 for improving efficiency of port operations, among other things.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ STEPHEN IP _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for Economic Services _____

Date _____ 16 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

ESB015

Question Serial No.

0539

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

Head 145 - Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : -
Economic Services Bureau

Programme : Programme (4) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : The financial provision for 2000-01 under the Programme (4) is 39.5% higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000 due to certain of nine posts and additional operating expenses arising from the Tourism Commission. Please state how will the provision be distributed and the breakdown.

Asked by : The Hon Howard Young

Reply : For 2000-01, a provision of \$21.9 million is required for this programme. Its breakdown is as follows :

| | |
|---|---------|
| Personal emoluments | \$18.3m |
| Departmental expense | \$2.7m |
| Capital project | \$0.9m |
| (16 th APEC tourism working group meeting cum tourism forum) | |

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN IP

Post Title Secretary for Economic Services

Date 14 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB016

Question Serial No.

0540

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 145 Government Secretariat, Economic Services Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : During 2000-2001, the Economic Services Bureau will collaborate with the Hong Kong Tourist Association to construct an International Wetland Park. How much is the estimated expenditure for this item? What is the percentage of it in the Bureau's aggregate estimates of expenditure?

Asked by : Hon Fung Chi-kin

Reply : The International Wetland Park is a Government project funded by the Capital Works Reserve Fund under Head 703 – Buildings. As such the expenditure will not form part of Head 145 Government Secretariat, Economic Services Bureau. The total capital cost for its construction is estimated to be \$519.5 million at December 1998 prices. The cost for Phase I amounting to \$56.7 million has been approved by Finance Committee.

Signature

Name in block letters

MS MARIA KWAN

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Economic Services

Date

20 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB017

Question Serial No.

0543

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <u>Head</u> | : 145 Government Secretariat Economic Services Bureau | <u>Subhead</u> (No. & title) : |
| <u>Programme</u> | : (2) Posts and Power | |
| <u>Controlling Officer</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Policy Secretary</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Question</u> | : The programme requires an increased provision of \$0.5 million for additional activities, but this expenditure item has been increasing for two years and shows an upward trend. What are the so-called “additional activities”? | |
| <u>Asked by</u> | : Hon. FUNG Chi-kin | |
| <u>Reply</u> | : In the light of anticipated increase in workload arising from power related matters, such as further studies relating to interconnection and competition in Hong Kong’s electricity supply sector, competition in the major fuel markets, etc, more staff time will be spent on energy issues. The apportionment of staff and central administration costs for Programme (2) : Posts and Power is therefore increased by about \$500,000 in the draft Estimates for 2000-01. | |

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : STEPHEN IP

Post Title : Secretary for Economic Services

Date : 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 024

Question Serial No.

0565

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 28 Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (2) Airport Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Aviation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : As mentioned, the previous target for processing applications for exemption from height restrictions was 14 working days and this year it is revised to 10 working days to reflect increased efficiency. According to the previous figures, the actual processing time was 8 working days in both 1998 and 1999, will the Administration consider revising the target to 8 working days instead of 10 in 2000-01?

Asked by : The Hon Howard YOUNG

Reply : Apart from increased efficiency, the processing time of 8 working days in both 1998 and 1999 was achieved because of a significant reduction in applications for temporary Airport Height Restrictions (AHR) exemption from the construction industry in these two years. This is believed to be partially due to the relaxation of AHR in downtown areas after airport relocation. However, the processing time for AHR exemption is also affected by the total volume of other work handled by the safety regulation sub-section, which includes the vetting of building plans/development proposals submitted for assessment for compliance with AHR and aviation safety requirements. The number of such submissions is expected to increase in 2000-01 because of the large number of planned developments in the northwestern part of the New Territories and along the north-shore of Lantau. Hence, a target of 10 working days is considered appropriate. CAD would review this target annually.

Signature

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Name in block letters | ALBERT K Y LAM |
| Post Title | Director of Civil Aviation |
| Date | 16 March 2000 |

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 025

Question Serial No.

0566

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 28 Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (3) Airport Traffic Management

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Aviation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : It has been reported that a few alleged incidents of flight path conflict between aircraft have taken place within Hong Kong's airspace. Is there any provision for extra training for air traffic control staff to prevent such incidents from happening?

Asked by : The Hon Howard YOUNG

Reply : New air traffic control recruits have to pass vigorous training programmes and validation checks, before deploying to control duties. As part of the continuation training for air traffic controllers, the Civil Aviation Department provides a Refresher Training Programme to reinforce their level of situation awareness in the detection of potential air traffic conflicts and to improve their skills in the handling of unusual traffic situations and emergencies. Controllers have to perform the training exercise in a simulator controlling virtual traffic. The exercise is structured to highlight the area of conflicts in each sector. There is a high degree of flexibility in the composition of virtual traffic in the simulator. By working through various traffic scenarios, the controller will be able to enhance control technique, improve alertness and situation awareness. Such training will help to enable controllers to detect potential traffic conflicts well in advance, thus allowing them to make timely and proper direction to resolve the conflicts. Controllers are required to undergo the Refresher Training Programme at regular intervals.

To strengthen the establishment of the training unit, 3 additional Air Traffic Control Officer II posts were created on 1 December 1999. The total staff cost of these posts is \$2.3 million per year.

Signature

Name in block letters ALBERT K Y LAM

Post Title Director of Civil Aviation

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 026

Question Serial No.

0567

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 28 Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Aviation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : The estimated number of non-scheduled air services permits issued in 2000 is 2,300. As the HKSAR Government has signed an air agreement with the Mainland recently for more direct flights, will there not be a decrease in non-scheduled air services permits issued?

Asked by : The Hon Howard YOUNG

Reply : Under the Air Services Arrangement between the Mainland and the HKSAR signed in February 2000, the regular charter services operated by airlines between Hong Kong and the Mainland may be converted into scheduled services. As these regular charter services have been operating for a long time and a number of routes are involved, it will take some time for the airlines to convert them into scheduled services. Until they are converted into scheduled services, non-scheduled air services permits will continue to be issued for these services. At the same time, there may be new non-scheduled services between Hong Kong and foreign countries. We, therefore, estimated that the number of non-scheduled service permits issued would only drop slightly from 2,363 in 1999 to 2,300 in 2000.

Signature

Name in block letters ALBERT K Y LAM

Post Title Director of Civil Aviation

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 028

Question Serial No.

0569

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 28 Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (4) Technical and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Aviation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : How effective were the Government's efforts in monitoring aircraft noise and flight track in the past? What are the measures to be taken and resources to be deployed by the Government in 2000 to bring the noise abatement programme further?

Asked by : The Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : An aircraft noise and flight track monitoring system has been commissioned to monitor and evaluate the noise impact and track keeping performance of aircraft in and out of Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) since airport opening in July 1998. Based on the data collected by the monitoring system, CAD has produced a preliminary Noise Exposure Forecast (NEF) 25 contour map in respect of the first year operation of the airport. The result is consistent with the findings of the noise impact assessments updated by the Airport Authority in early 1998, i.e. all residential areas in Hong Kong, except for Sha Lo Wan, are outside the NEF 25 contour. The noise levels are thus within the concerned standard.

While the results show that the noise standard set for the new airport has not been exceeded, we are mindful of the noise impact that aircraft operations may cause and have therefore developed a number of mitigating measures. These include:

- (a) aircraft arriving between midnight and 07:00 am are arranged to land from the southwest, subject to acceptable wind direction and safety consideration;
- (b) aircraft departing to the northeast between 11:00 pm and 07:00 am are arranged to use the southbound route via the West Lamma Channel, subject to acceptable operational and safety consideration;
- (c) the adoption of noise abatement take-off procedures (set out by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)) for aircraft departing to the northeast; and
- (d) non-ICAO Chapter 3 aircraft (i.e. noisier types) are not allowed for scheduled landing or take-off at HKIA between 11:00 pm and 07:00 am.

According to the monitoring results, over 90% of arriving aircraft and over 95% of departing aircraft are able to comply with measures (a) and (b) respectively. The small percentage of non-compliance was due to various operational reasons, such as prevailing wind speed, maintenance of navigation aids, air traffic congestion, etc.

To further reduce the aircraft noise impact on residents outside the NEF 25 contour, CAD is studying the feasibility of applying the Continuous Descent Approach procedures during small hours. This aims to further reduce the aircraft noise impact on areas such as Sai Kung, Tseung Kwan O and Ma On Shan.

The resources needed to implement the noise mitigating measures are absorbed in the provision for the Civil Aviation Department.

Signature

Name in block letters ALBERT K Y LAM

Post Title Director of Civil Aviation

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 029

Question Serial No.

0570

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 28 Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (4) Technical and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Aviation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : The government will develop implementation plans and procure equipment for the study and trial of the satellite-based CNS/ATM System in 2000. Will the government provide the details as well as the estimates of expenditure in this respect?

Asked by : The Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The project team of the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) for the study and trial of the satellite-based Communication, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) systems was established on 1 January 2000. The estimated expenditure to be incurred in financial year 2000-01 would be \$14.5 million, of which \$3.7 million is staff cost and \$10.8 million is for the purchase of trial equipment and other costs.

In 2000-01, the trial CNS/ATM equipment to be procured for evaluation will include Controller-Pilot Data Link Communication System, High Frequency/Very High Frequency Data Links, Satellite Voice Communications Facility and Automatic Dependent Surveillance System. Market survey is being conducted by CAD to identify suitable trial equipment, which are planned to be installed and put for evaluation use by the end of 2000. In the 3rd quarter of this year, CAD will also send its staff to visit equipment manufacturers and operational installations in other places, so as to gain technical and operational experience. Such experience would be useful to Hong Kong in the development of satellite-based CNS/ATM systems.

Signature

Name in block letters ALBERT K Y LAM

Post Title Director of Civil Aviation

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 030

Question Serial No.

0571

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 28 Civil Aviation Department

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

Programme : (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Aviation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : In prior years, responses to questions regarding expenditure 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 \$9,424,000 included in the approved commitments and estimated 1999-2000 expenditures for various consultations by just Civil Aviation 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>Subhead (Code)</u> | <u>Item (Code)</u> | <u>Approved commitment</u> \$'000 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 700 | 513 | 9,424 |

Asked by : The Hon Christine LOH

Reply : The approved commitments and estimated 1999-2000 expenditures concerned are for the hire of advisory services from the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on airworthiness requirements due to the lack of local expertise. The advisory service agreement specifies a schedule of service which is monitored by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD). In addition, a six-monthly report is submitted by CAA on the work carried out. Review meetings are also held half-yearly between CAD and CAA. In examining and monitoring the work of CAA,

the CAD would look at criteria such as response time, quality of work and professional knowledge etc. All these measures help to ensure that the government and taxpayers are getting value for money. The advisory service agreement with the CAA has proved very effective, and assisted Hong Kong in maintaining its world-wide reputation for high airworthiness standards.

Signature

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Name in block letters | ALBERT K Y LAM |
| Post Title | Director of Civil Aviation |
| Date | 16 March 2000 |

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 031

Question Serial No.

0572

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 28 Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title) : N/A

Programme : (1) Flights Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Aviation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Please explain in detail the preparatory arrangements for the requirements on certifying staff in Aircraft Maintenance and Approved Maintenance Training Organisations.

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : As new and advanced technology has been applied to modern aircraft, aircraft maintenance organisations have gradually eliminated the demarcation of maintenance work into many working trades. Thus, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) has to review the requirements for aircraft maintenance organisations and the licensing of its staff. At the same time, CAD has to develop a set of standards to vet and approve maintenance training organisations and its employees.

In relation to the above, CAD has established in May 1999 a "Consultative Committee for the New Aircraft Maintenance Licensing System in Hong Kong". Members of this Committee include representatives from CAD, airlines, maintenance organisations and engineers' associations. The main objectives of the Committee are to solicit views from the industry, and to review, draft and establish procedures and requirements in relation to aircraft maintenance. The Committee is scheduled to meet on a quarterly basis.

CAD has published the Requirement of Approving Maintenance Training Organisations in January 2000. CAD plans to publish the Requirement of Licensing of Maintenance Personnel in July 2000. The effective dates for these two Requirements are 1 January 2001 and 1 January 2002 respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters ALBERT K Y LAM
Post Title Director of Civil Aviation
Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB018

Question Serial No.

0638

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 42 – Electrical & Mechanical Services Department

Programme : 1 – Electrical, gas and nuclear safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Please provide a detailed account on the consultancy study in interconnection of the two electricity supply companies in Hong Kong. When will the consultancy study commence and when will it end.

Asked by : The Honourable Wong Yung-kan

Reply : The Study on Interconnection and Competition in the Hong Kong Electricity Supply Sector is a feasibility study conducted by independent consultants to establish whether additional interconnection between Hong Kong's two electricity supply companies and encouragement of competition in the electricity supply sector would be in the interest of consumers. It was commissioned in May 1998 and the final report was made public in November 1999. An information note setting out findings of Study was put to the LegCo Panel on Economic Services for discussion on 30 November 1999. At present, the Administration is seeking public comments on the consultants' report. We will consider the way forward taking into account the comments received.

We envisage that further consultancy studies on reliability, engineering, structural and regulatory issues would be required e.g. detailed engineering studies on system capability and planning criteria for electricity generation and transmission under an increased interconnection scenario, and technical studies on the routing and timing for the construction of new interconnectors. For this purpose, we have earmarked \$9 million in the 2000-01 draft Estimates. We hope to be able to start some of these studies in the coming months. We would be in a better position to estimate the duration of these studies after their scope is finalised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 16 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB019

Question Serial No.

0639

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 42 – Electrical & Mechanical Services Department

Programme : 1 – Electrical, gas and nuclear safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Why does the number of site inspections, including following-up, on electrical installations increase substantially from 5,808 in 1999 to an estimated number of 9,000 in 2000?

Asked by : The Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Under the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations, an owner of a fixed electrical installation that has an approved load exceeding 100 amperes shall have the installation inspected, tested and certified at least once every five years. As part of the Government's programme to enhance safety in buildings, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has set a target of 9,000 inspections in 2000-01 with a view to completing inspection of all such electrical installations for which no evidence of compliance with the Regulations has yet been submitted to the Department. This target also takes account of the fact that the full complement of staff for strengthening inspection of electrical installations is available as from April 2000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 17 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB021

Question Serial No.

0641

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 42 – Electrical & Mechanical Services Department

Programme : 1 – Electrical, gas and nuclear safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : In prior years, response 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 \$17,050,000¹ included in the approved commitments and estimated 1999-2000 expenditures for various consultations by just Electrical and Mechanical Services Department alone.

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

| <u>1.</u> Subhead (Code) | Item(Code) | <u>Approved commitment</u> \$'000 |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 700 | 694 | 950 |
| | 695 | 1,300 |
| | 698 | 5,800 |
| | 700 | <u>9,000</u> |
| | | 17,050 |

Asked by : The Honourable Christine LOH

Reply : Items 694, 695, 698 and 700, under Subhead 700 are studies on specialized areas relating to energy and energy efficiency issues. They require inputs from professionals with relevant expertise and experience in the related fields to enable completion of the studies within the expected timeframe. Compared to employing experts in-house, contracting out the studies to external consultants should be a more cost effective and flexible alternative.

There are detailed guidelines within the Government on the selection and management of consultants with a view to ensuring fairness and value for money. According to these guidelines, consultants have to be selected by a panel through an open tender process using predefined selection criteria. Such criteria take into account not only the fee charged but also the technical merits of the consultants' proposals, including the credentials and relevant experience of the study team, reasonableness of the manpower plan and the quality of the technical proposal in response to the consultancy brief.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 16 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB022

Question Serial No.

0645

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 Economic Services

Question : What is EMSD's expenditure on gas safety in 2000-01? Why is the estimated number of site inspections for 2000 (i.e. 4,810) lower than the number for 1999 (i.e. 4,933)?

Asked by : Hon. Chan Kam-lam

Reply : The estimated recurrent expenditure on gas safety (excluding LPG vehicle safety) is about \$35.4 million.

In enforcing the Gas Safety Ordinance and Regulations, large number of routine inspections are conducted within the in-house workforce. The number of site inspections to be conducted in 2000-01 is lower than that in 1999-2000 because the number of site inspections of installation of flueless gas water heaters connected to bathrooms has been excluded. With the enactment of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use and Miscellaneous) (Amendment) Regulations 1999, the use of flueless gas water heaters connected to bathrooms will be prohibited from 1 July 2000. To ensure that owners of these flueless gas water heaters will comply with the latest requirements, \$5 million has been allocated for the department to hire service for conducting site inspections and implementing the replacement programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB033

Question Serial No.

691

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

| <u>Head</u> | 100 Marine Department | <u>Subhead(No. & title)</u> | : |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| <u>Programme</u> | : | (2) Port Services | |
| <u>Controlling Officer</u> | : | Director of Marine | |
| <u>Bureau Secretary</u> | : | Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Question</u> | : | Would the Government inform me of the details about the upgrading of the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) System and the breakdown of the estimated expenditure? What was the recurrent cost of the System in the past? Also, is it the case that the VTS System has become obsolete or can no longer attain its optimal effectiveness and therefore required replacement and upgrading? | |
| <u>Asked by</u> | : | Hon. LAU Kong-wah | |
| <u>Reply</u> | : | The break down of the estimated capital cost for the project is as follows : | |
| | | \$ million | |
| (a) | Electrical and mechanical equipment installation | 160.7 | |
| (b) | Renovation and refurbishment works | 34.3 | |
| (c) | Project management charges by Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) | 14.9 | |
| (d) | Contingency (10% of (a)) | 16.1 | |
| | TOTAL | <hr/> 226.0 | |

The recurrent cost is estimated to be \$55.3 million upon full operation, while that of the existing system is \$52.9 million.

The full cost of the system will be recovered from the users through collection of port and light dues and passenger embarkation fees. The existing Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) System will reach the end of its serviceable life in two years. If it is not replaced and upgraded in time, we will not have a reliable system to ensure navigation safety and fulfil international requirements for VTS as prescribed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and other bodies from time to time. The new system will include the latest technology and international requirement such as a new Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) System, Automatic Identification System (AIS) and Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS).

Signature

Name in Block Letters

S. Y. TSUI

Post Title

Director of Marine

Date

17 March 2000

| |
|---------------------|
| Bureau Serial No. |
| ESB034 |
| Question Serial No. |
| 692 |

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------|
| <u>Head</u> | 100 Marine Department | <u>Subhead(No. & title)</u> | : |
| <u>Programme</u> | : (2) Port Services | | |
| <u>Controlling Officer</u> | : Director of Marine | | |
| <u>Bureau Secretary</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | | |
| <u>Question</u> | : At present, does the Government have any specific plans in reviewing the control of emission of black smoke from vessels? | | |
| <u>Asked by</u> | : Hon. LAU Kong-wah | | |
| <u>Reply</u> | : To enhance the effectiveness of the control of emission of smoke from vessels, Marine Department has initiated a review to look into the operation, inspection and maintenance of the machinery of a vessel so that offences relating to emission of excessive smoke could be clearly defined. | | |

The review will be completed in four months' time. We shall then consult the shipping industry and draw up specific regulatory measures.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Signature | |
| Name in Block Letters | S. Y. TSUI |
| Post Title | Director of Marine |
| Date | 17 March 2000 |

Bureau Serial No.

ESB035

Question Serial No.

693

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 100 Marine Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Local Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : With respect to Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWAs),

- (a) the actual figure for cargo throughput for public cargo working areas (PCWAs) in 1999 is less than the actual figure in 1998. What is the reason for this?
- (b) why is the estimated figure for cargo throughput for PCWAs in 2000 similar to the actual figure in 1999?
- (c) the Marine Department will continue to implement management reform during 2000-01. Please give details on this. How much resources will be involved?

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

- Reply** :
- (a) We believe the drop of the cargo handled in public cargo working areas (PCWAs) indicates a change in the cargo handling pattern. Some of the cargoes that used to go to PCWA have gone elsewhere.
 - (b) The figure for the year 2000 was an estimate based on the performance of the PCWAs in 1999. The estimate takes into account the current cargo handling pattern. It is not envisaged that in 2000 there would be significant changes in the pattern of cargo throughput for PCWA.
 - (c) We are carrying out consultation with the trade on implementation of the management reform. We decided in 1998 when we carried out the reforms that the recommendations of the D of Audit should be carried out in phases. We would take into account the views of the industry when we finalise our proposals for the next phase of the reform.

The management reform will be carried out by existing staff of the Department. Additional resource will not be required.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

S. Y. TSUI

Post Title

Director of Marine

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 037

Question Serial No.

0748

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 145 Government Secretariat, Economic Services Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :
Programme : (4) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Has the Administration ever conducted or will ever conduct surveys on the attractions of Hong Kong as a tourist destination so as to project the distribution of resources and the effectiveness and rate of return of each provision?

Asked by : Hon. Emily Lau Wai-hing

Reply :

Hong Kong Tourist Association regularly undertakes various international and local market surveys which include the annual International Market Research Study and on-going exit visitor surveys. Information collected in these surveys such as purpose of visits, spending pattern, and tourism receipts of key source markets are analysed and used by the Association as a reference in formulating marketing plans and distribution of resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

STEPHEN IP

Post Title

Secretary for Economic Services

Date

15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB038

Question Serial No.

0948

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <u>Head</u> | : 145 Government Secretariat Economic Services Bureau | <u>Subhead</u> (No. & title) : |
| <u>Programme</u> | : (2) Posts and Power | |
| <u>Controlling Officer</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Policy Secretary</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Question</u> | : The provision under this programme has increased by \$0.5m in 2000-01. Please give an account of the additional work to be carried out and the estimates of expenditure involved. | |
| <u>Asked by</u> | : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam | |
| <u>Reply</u> | : In the light of anticipated increase in workload arising from power related matters, such as further studies relating to interconnection and competition in Hong Kong's electricity supply sector, competition in the major fuel markets, etc, more staff time will be spent on energy issues. The apportionment of staff and central administration costs for Programme (2) : Posts and Power is therefore increased by about \$500,000 in the draft Estimates for 2000-01. | |

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : STEPHEN IP

Post Title : Secretary for Economic Services

Date : 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB039

Question Serial No.

0949

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <u>Head</u> | : 145 Government Secretariat Economic Services Bureau | <u>Subhead</u> (No. & title) : |
| <u>Programme</u> | : (2) Posts and Power | |
| <u>Controlling Officer</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Policy Secretary</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Question</u> | : How much is the amount of funding that the Government has reserved for the follow-up on the feasibility study of promoting efficient use of generating capacity and encouraging greater competition in the power sector? | |
| <u>Asked by</u> | : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam | |
| <u>Reply</u> | : Public comments are being sought on the consultants' report in respect of the Study on Interconnection and Competition in the Hong Kong Electricity Supply Sector. The Administration will consider the way forward taking into account the comments received. We envisage that further consultancy studies on reliability, engineering, structural and regulatory issues would be required. We have earmarked \$9 million in the 2000-01 draft Estimates for this purpose in the non-recurrent account under Head 42 - Electrical & Mechanical Services Department. | |

In the light of anticipated increase in workload within Economic Services Bureau arising from these studies and other power related matters, we have budgeted for an additional provision of \$500,000 for Programme (2) - Posts and Power under Head 145 - Government Secretariat : Economic Services Bureau in the 2000-01 draft Estimates.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : STEPHEN IP

Post Title : Secretary for Economic Services

Date : 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 040

Question Serial No.

0950

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 145 Government Secretariat: Economic Services Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :
Programme : (4) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : (a) Please list the estimates of expenditure for strengthening the support of the Tourism Commission.
(b) Please briefly describe the work plans of the Tourism Commission in the coming year.
(c) What is the provision earmarked by the government for reviewing the effectiveness of the current public education efforts in promoting a hospitality culture in the community mentioned in programme (4)? When will the review be started and in what way will it be carried out?

Asked by : Hon. Chan Kam-lam

Reply :

(a) The financial provision for 2000-01 under the Programme of Travel and Tourism is \$21.9 million. Its breakdown is as follows:-

| | |
|--|---------|
| Personal emoluments | \$18.3m |
| Departmental expense | \$2.7m |
| Capital Project | \$0.9m |
| (16 th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation tourism working group meeting cum tourism forum) | |

- (b) In the coming year, the Tourism Commission will oversee the implementation of the agreement with the Walt Disney Company including the construction of the Hong Kong Disneyland on Lantau. The Commission will also pursue initiatives such as the planning for a cable car system in North Lantau, to further promote heritage and green tourism and to continue with the planning for an International Wetland Park. Moreover, the Administration will review the effectiveness of the current public education efforts in promoting a hospitality culture in the community with a view to drawing up a comprehensive public education programme.
- (c) The Tourism Commission is now conducting a review on the effectiveness of current public education efforts in promoting a hospitality culture in the community. The review is undertaken in-house with existing resources and is expected to be completed in mid-2000. It will take stock of and assess the effectiveness of initiatives undertaken by various agencies, including the Hong Kong Tourist Association, and will make recommendations on the way forward.

The Tourism Strategy Group, set up in August 1999 to advise the Government on the formulation of long-term tourism policy and strategy for Hong Kong, will be consulted on the findings and recommendations of the review.

Signature

Name in block letters

STEPHEN IP

Post Title

Secretary for Economic Services

Date

15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 041

Question Serial No.

0995

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 177 Subventions: Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Subhead (No. & title) : 443 Hong Kong Tourist Association

Programme : Subvention: Hong Kong Tourist Association

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : (a) What are the total provisions for putting up signage for tourists in 2000-01? After Stanley and Central and Western Districts, what other areas/districts are in line for this?

- (b) Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01, it is stated that the HKTA will intensify the use of web marketing to promote Hong Kong. Please inform this Council about the plan and how much provision will be allocated.
- (c) In respect of the Quality Tourism Services Scheme to enhance the service quality, are there any targets set to measure its achievement so as to justify the resources allocated?

Asked by : Hon. Howard Young

Reply :

- (a) A total of \$3.5 million under Head 177 has been earmarked for pilot schemes for putting up signage for tourists in Stanley and Central from the Star Ferry Pier to the Peak Tram Station and Lan Kwai Fong area. The pilot scheme for tourist district enhancement in Central and Western District funded under Head 708 - Capital Subvention and Major Systems and Equipment also includes works on signage improvements.

We will consider the way forward having regard to experience gained in these pilot projects.

- (b) The Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA) will collaborate with major travel related websites such as National Geographic, Preview Travel and Travelocity to develop multi-media promotion packages. The Association will also make use of new technology to introduce activities such as live-broadcast of the Chinese New Year Parade and some international conferences. HKTA plans to revamp and upgrade its website to meet the demands of the new era and further facilitate the web users. To promote major international and local events to visitors, HKTA will

develop an event website which enables access to an on-line ticket reservation system. The estimated cost of the above projects is \$10.8 million, of which \$3.8 million has been allocated from the Tourism Development Fund. The balance of \$7 million is subvented by the Government.

- (c) In 1999-2000, the Government allocated \$3.5 million to the Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA) to implement the Quality Tourism Services (QTS) Scheme. HKTA introduced the scheme in November 1999 for retail shops and restaurants to promote good service. The Association aims to have 300 QTS organisations and award them with the QTS decals in April/May this year. As at March, the HKTA has received 188 applications. A QTS Assessment and Qualification Board has been set up to assess and approve the applications. The HKTA has also commissioned the Hong Kong Productivity Council to be the technical consultant of the Scheme responsible for conducting professional assessments and site visits for applications.

Signature

Name in block letters

STEPHEN IP

Post Title

Secretary for Economic Services

Date

15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 042

Question Serial No.

0996

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 145 - Government Secretariat:
Economic Services Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (1) Air and Sea Communications

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Does the Administration have any specific plan to further develop Hong Kong as a centre of international and regional aviation? What are the estimates of expenditure in this respect?

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

Reply : The Government is committed to further developing Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre. In addition to a wide range of initiatives taken by the Airport Authority to enhance the competitiveness of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), we are implementing measures to enhance flight safety and efficiency and to expand our aviation network.

On flight safety, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will further strengthen its system for monitoring aircraft, operators and maintenance organisations to ensure compliance with international standards. It will also regularly review the procedures, staff deployment and training in the provision of air traffic control services. In addition the CAD is undertaking studies and trials of the satellite-based Communications, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management systems, which would improve flight safety and efficiency in a comprehensive manner upon their gradual introduction.

For the purpose of expanding Hong Kong's aviation network, the Government has adopted a liberal air services policy. To develop new air links, we will negotiate and conclude more Air Services Agreements with new aviation partners. We will also review the traffic arrangements with existing aviation partners from time to time in the light of market developments. The objective is to expand Hong Kong's aviation network continuously, so as to enhance Hong Kong's status as an international and regional aviation centre.

As far as Head 145 "Government Secretariat: Economic Services Bureau" is concerned, we have included \$9.6 million in the Draft Estimates 2000-2001 for dedicated staff to handle matters relating to civil aviation (including the HKIA) and air services negotiations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Stephen Ip

Post Title _____ Secretary for Economic Services

Date _____ 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB052

Question Serial No.

1109

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 : (2) Port and Marine Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : What are the findings of the research studies on the design of seawalls and reclamation and the use of rubber fenders at seawall landings? Is there any provision allocated for the implementation of the recommendations of those studies in this year?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The five studies on the design of seawalls and reclamation, and the use of rubber fenders at seawall landings recommend a new set of standard seawall drawings, measures for control of stability of the underlying mud in reclamation, replacing timber fenders by rubber fenders at seawall landings, further investigation of alternative seawall foundation designs, and re-drafting of an engineering manual for design of marine works. The replacement of timber fenders by rubber fenders at seawall landings will result in an overall saving of about 15% in terms of capital and maintenance costs. The rest of the recommendations are refinements to the design of seawalls and reclamation and estimated to have no additional cost implication.

Signature

Name in block letters _____ Y. C. LO _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 048

Question Serial No.

1151

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 177 Subventions: Non-departmental Public Bodies

Subhead (No. & title) : 443 Hong Kong Tourist Association

Programme : Subvention: Hong Kong Tourist Association

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : (a) It is mentioned in the "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01" that the HKTA will conduct consumer studies. Please explain in detail the methodology and targets of study as well as the resources to be involved.

- (b) How is the progress of the programme of developing the Mainland as a complementary destination for long-haul visitors to Hong Kong? Please provide some successful examples with supporting figures so as to prove the cost-effectiveness of the programme.
- (c) Please list some of the efforts for enhancing tourist-related infrastructure and the resources involved besides the signage improvement scheme already mentioned.

Asked by : Hon. Chan Kam-lam

Reply :

- (a) Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA) has set aside \$4.05 million for international and local market research which includes the annual International Market Research Study and on-going exit visitor surveys. The International Market Research Study involves distributing questionnaires and conducting interviews as well as group discussions with potential visitors in the key source markets of Hong Kong. HKTA also conducts exit visitor surveys at the Hong Kong International Airport and other major departure points to collect information on the visitors' purpose of visit, their spending pattern and tourism receipts of key source markets.
- (b) Hong Kong Tourist Association together with tourism authorities of Macau and Guangdong formed the Pearl River Delta Tourism Marketing Organisation in 1993 to jointly promote tourism in the Pearl River Delta region. The Organisation has been extensively involved in major international trade shows and launched a series of promotional activities including familiarisation trips to attract visitors. The organisation has organised travel roadshows and promoted tour products in Australia, Europe and the USA. HKTA's worldwide offices and representations have also been working closely with their counterparts from the Mainland to organise various activities to promote the distinct Pearl River Delta concept. HKTA will spend \$2 million on the above marketing activities in 2000-01. The Association has also signed co-operative agreements with

tourism authorities in Beijing, Yunnan and Sichuan to promote multi-destination tourism.

- (c) Funded under Head 177 Subventions : Non-departmental Public Bodies, the Hong Kong Tourist Association has launched/will launch the following projects—

- (i) development of a web-based Hotel Development Information System at about \$0.5 million; and
- (ii) development of an Interface Network of Automated Ticketing Systems for overseas customers at \$3.85 million;

The Administration is separately undertaking other improvements to tourist-related infrastructure. These include –

- (i) a pilot scheme for tourist district enhancement scheme in Central and Western District at an estimated project cost of \$60.4 million funded under Head 708 – Capital Subvention and Major Systems and Equipment. Works for this project will commence in April 2000 for completion in early 2003; and
- (ii) construction of an International Wetland Park at an estimated project cost of \$519.5 million. This project is funded under Head 703 – Buildings. Construction will be completed in 2004.

Signature

Name in block letters

STEPHEN IP

Post Title

Secretary for Economic Services

Date

15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB051

Question Serial No.

1152

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <u>Head</u> | 100 Marine Department | <u>Subhead</u>(No. & title) : |
| <u>Programme</u> | : | (1) Infrastructure |
| <u>Controlling Officer</u> | : | Director of Marine |
| <u>Bureau Secretary</u> | : | Secretary for Economic Services |
| <u>Question</u> | : | The provision for 2000-01 is \$1.0 million lower than the revised estimate for last year, mainly due to the deletion of one post. Please list the title, job nature and entry point of that post in detail. |
| <u>Asked by</u> | : | Hon. CHAN Kam-lam |
| <u>Reply</u> | : | Title of the deleted post : Senior Surveyor/Multi-lateral Policy Division |

Main duties : The main duties of this post are to prepare "Instruction to Surveyors", assist in shipping legislation work, development of shipping policy/standards, and representing HKSAR Government at international forum on maritime issues.

Starting salary : \$76,485 per month

Signature

Name in Block Letters

S. Y. TSUI

Post Title

Director of Marine

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB043

Question Serial No.

1153

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 Economic Services

Question : As mentioned under Programme (2), a control centre for transiting Mainland cargo vessels will be established. When will the centre be commissioned? What is the estimated setting up cost of the centre?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : We are planning to establish the "Control Centre for Mainland Cargo Vessels" on 1.4.2000.

The Centre will require a staff complement of 5 Class I Marine Inspectors and 5 Clerical Assistants with a total Notional Annual Mid-point Salary of \$2.47M. The one-off equipment cost is estimated to be \$0.25M. These costs will be met through internal redeployment of resources.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

S. Y. TSUI

Post Title

Director of Marine

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB045

Question Serial No.

1155

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 100 Marine Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Local Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Under Programme (3), it is mentioned that additional expenditure is partly offset by the net deletion of 15 posts resulting from the implementation of the automatic car parking system and strengthening of investigation activities. Please state the definition and job nature of such investigation activities in detail, and the titles, duties and job nature of the 15 posts to be deleted.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : The net deletion of 15 posts involves the deletion of 16 Artisans and one Marine Inspector II partly offset by the creation of two Marine Inspector I (MI /I) posts.

The 2 MI/Is are mainly responsible for screening prosecution files, conducting investigation work and co-ordinating follow up actions required for prosecution which has increased from 1 546 cases in 1997 to 3 070 cases in 1999.

With the benefit of office automation, the work flow for processing prosecution cases can be streamlined to enhance efficiency. Therefore, one post of Marine Inspector II can be deleted as his duties can be absorbed by other staff in the Prosecution Unit.

The 16 Artisans were deleted as a result of the installation of the automatic car parking system at the public cargo working areas (PCWAs). Their main duties were :

- (a) to man the entrance and exits of PCWAs;
- (b) to issue vehicle entry tickets to goods vehicles at the entrance and to ensure no unauthorized vehicles will enter the PCWA;
- (c) to collect tickets from goods vehicles and to ensure that fees are paid.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

S. Y. TSUI

Post Title

Director of Marine

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB046

Question Serial No.

1189

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

| Head | 100 Marine Department | Subhead(No. & title) | : |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------|
| Programme | : | (5) Government Fleet | |
| Controlling Officer | : | Director of Marine | |
| Bureau Secretary | : | Secretary for Economic Services | |
| Question | : | (a) With regard to the Government Dockyard Improvement Works mentioned in the Programme, please list particulars of the project items in detail. In what ways will the Dockyard's operational efficiency be improved? Moreover, how many new vessels will be launched this year? For what purposes will the new vessels be used? (b) Please list in detail the new work arrangements of the Government Fleet upon the rearrangement of launches and hiring of commercial launches. How will this result in the deletion of four posts? | |
| Asked by | : | Hon. CHAN Kam-lam | |
| Reply | : | (a) The following facilities will be provided in the final phases of the Government Dockyard improvement project:- (i) purpose-built permanent accommodation for various sections/units of Marine Department, Marine Police, Civil Engineering Department and Customs and Excise Department; (ii) additional jetties for berthing of vessels; (iii) covered berths for maintenance of vessels; (iv) paving for the whole of repair yard areas with concrete floor; and (v) a steel fabrication workshop; a hydro-blasting workshop and a main store for spare engines and parts. | |

After completion of the GD project, the new facilities would enhance efficiency and improve quality of work. The need to carry out maintenance/repair work at private shipyards would gradually be eliminated as more yard spaces are made available within the GD compound. The covered maintenance sheds would minimize delay due to the poor weather conditions and ensure better work quality. The additional berthing spaces provided would relieve much of the congestion and pressure in the GD basin as a major operating base for government vessels.

In 2000-2001, a total of 14 new vessels will be delivered to the Government, namely : 4 police inshore patrol boats; 3 personnel carrier launches, 2 sector command launches and 5 rigid hull inflatable boats (for patrol and hot pursuit purposes) for Customs and Excise.

(b) As the cost of keeping a government launch is higher than hiring a launch in the commercial market, it is Marine Department's policy, where appropriate, to use commercial launches to replace general purpose (i.e. non-specialised) vessels which are due for replacement. The deletion of the four posts was made possible by using hired launch service instead of keeping a government launch as personnel carrier.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

S. Y. TSUI

Post Title

Director of Marine

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 049

Question Serial No.

1190

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 177 Subventions: Non-departmental Public Bodies Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Subvention: Hong Kong Tourist Association

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Has the Quality Tourism Services Scheme, which has been launched for some time, met some of its objectives? How will the HKTA assess whether or not the service quality of retailers and restaurants has been enhanced since the implementation of the Scheme?

Asked by : Hon. Chan Kam-lam

Reply :

The Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA) introduced in November 1999 the Quality Tourism Services (QTS) Scheme for retail shops and restaurants to promote good service. The Association aims to have 300 QTS organisations and award them with the QTS decals in April/May this year. As at March, the HKTA has received 188 applications. A QTS Assessment and Qualification Board has been set up to assess and approve the applications. The HKTA has also commissioned the Hong Kong Productivity Council to be the technical consultant of the Scheme responsible for conducting professional assessments and site visits for applications.

Signature

STEPHEN IP

Name in block letters

STEPHEN IP

Post Title

Secretary for Economic Services

Date

March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB047

Question Serial No.

1191

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 100 Marine Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Services to Ships

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : It is mentioned under Programme (4) that the merging of offices results in reduced provision for 2000-01. Please explain this in detail.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : The office of the Shipping Registry Office (SRO) will merge with the Mercantile Marine Office (MMO) which would streamline the work of the two offices. This will lead to the deletion of one Assistant Clerical Officer post originally in the SRO, the deletion of one Assistant Clerical Officer post and one Clerical Assistant post in the MMO.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

S. Y. TSUI

Post Title

Director of Marine

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB050

Question Serial No.

1200

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

Head 145 - Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : -
Economic Services Bureau

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Of the staffing and financial provision of the Economic Services Bureau, how much has been set aside or earmarked for the future responsibility for consumer protection and competition policy?

Asked by : The Hon Li Wah-ming

Reply : In ESB's 2000-01 draft Estimates, we have not included provision for additional posts or recurrent expenditure resulting from the additional responsibility for consumer protection and competition policy. We intend to submit in due course detailed proposals to the Establishment Subcommittee and Finance Committee for approval.

Signature _____

Name in block letters STEPHEN IP

Post Title Secretary for Economic Services

Date 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 064

Question Serial No.

1244

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 168 Hong Kong Observatory

Subhead (No. & title) : 661 Minor plant,
vehicles and

equipment

(block vote)

Programme : (1) Weather Services

Controlling Officer : Director of the Hong Kong Observatory

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : The capital account under Subhead 661 represents a decrease of 94% against the revised estimate for the previous financial year due to the reduced requirement for minor plant and equipment. Please give an explanation of the sudden reduced requirement that leads to such a significant reduction.

Asked by : The Honourable CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The Hong Kong Observatory's expenditure under Subhead 661 in 1999-2000 was mainly for the replacement of obsolete and worn out minor plant and equipment. The provision in 2000-01 under this subhead would decrease by 94% from the revised estimates of the previous year because the need to replace old plant and equipment in the next Financial Year is expected to decrease significantly. Whether or not certain plant or equipment has to be replaced is determined by its condition. The overall requirement of the department in replacing minor plant and equipment varies significantly from year to year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Dr H K LAM

Post Title

Director of the Hong Kong
Observatory

Date

16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB053

Question Serial No.

1245

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 : (1) Tourism and Recreational Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Please state the post titles, ranks and duties of the 36 posts to be increased under Programme (1).

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The 36 posts include 4 Senior Engineers, 1 Senior Geotechnical Engineer, 1 Senior Landscape Architect, 8 Engineers, 1 Geotechnical Engineer, and 21 supporting technical, administrative, accounting and clerical staff. They are responsible for the planning, overall management and delivery of all land formation, infrastructural and associated works for the development of the proposed theme park project and other development in Northeast Lantau.

Signature

Name in block letters _____ Y. C. LO _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

ESB055

Question Serial No.

1246

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 145 **Government Secretariat:**
Economic Services Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Air and Sea Communications

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Please give a detailed account of the updating of port cargo forecasts.
When will the updating begin and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The Port Cargo Forecasts will assess the key factors affecting cargo generation, cargo handling and cargo routing of the cargo transport industry including the development of the Shenzhen and Hong Kong ports and their interaction. The study is scheduled to commence in April and complete in late 2000.

Signature

Name in Block Letters

STEPHEN IP

Post Title

Secretary for Economic Services

Date

March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB 056

Question Serial No.

1247

Examination of Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 145 - Government Secretariat
Subhead (No. & title): 700
Economic Services Bureau

Programme : (1) Air and Sea Communications

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Please give a detailed account of the campaigns to promote Hong Kong as an international shipping centre and competitive container port. When will such campaigns be launched and what effectiveness is expected to be achieved?

Asked by : The Honourable WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The promotional strategy is made up of the following elements:

Support materials

Production of promotional materials such as brochures, leaflets, slides and powerpoint presentational materials and video to support our promotional efforts.

Promotion overseas

Shipping

Delegations comprising Government representatives and PMB members visited Beijing, London, New York, Rotterdam, Japan and Korea with the objective to raise awareness of the attractiveness of the Hong Kong Shipping Register, attract new shipping business to Hong Kong and update the maritime industry at large on the latest developments of the Hong Kong shipping industry.

Port

Delegations comprising Government, industry representatives and PMB members visited London, Japan and the U.S. to update key decision makers on Hong Kong's infrastructure developments and to promote the attractiveness of shipping cargo through Hong Kong.

Promotions in Hong Kong

Meetings were held with shipping and shipping-related companies and Classification Societies in Hong Kong to promote to them the attractiveness of the Hong Kong Shipping Register.

The Government and the PMB also placed special emphasis on attracting maritime conferences and seminars to be held in Hong Kong and we have successfully brought in a number of gatherings to Hong Kong such as the East Asia Ports and Shipping Conference, TransAsia World Expo and Conference 99, Bunkering in Asia Convention, Container Shipping Summit, the Inaugural Maritime Asia Awards Ceremony, a workshop by the South East Asian Programme on Ocean Law, Policy and Management (SEAPOL) and the Seatrade Hong Kong Conference.

To enhance awareness of the attractions of the Hong Kong port and to promote Hong Kong as an international shipping centre, the Government and the PMB frequently receive visitors and delegations from both local organisations and overseas.

Such promotional activities have highlighted the attractiveness of Hong Kong as an international shipping centre and a leading port in the region and enabled us to reach out to key decision makers who have significant influence on their organisation's decision on where to go for their shipping and port needs. The gross tonnage of our Shipping Register has increased from 6.4 million tons to 8.7 million tons since April 1999. The container throughput of our port has grown by 10 per cent from 14.6 million TEUs to 16.1 million TEUs in 1999.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : _____ STEPHEN IP _____

Post Title : Secretary for Economic Services

Date : _____ 16 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

ESB063

Question Serial No.

1249

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 : (2) Port and Marine Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Please advise on the progress of the study for establishing the shoreline database and the planned completion date of the study.

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The study commenced in 1999 with a view to establishing a database for the shoreline features in the territory.

Geographic information, land status plans, engineering conditions and photograph records of the marine lots have been collected for the Northwest New Territories region. After establishing the database for the NWNT region later this year, data collection work will start on other regions.

The study is programmed for completion in 2004.

Signature

Name in block letters

Y. C. LO

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB057

Question Serial No.

1267

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

Programme : (2) Posts and Power

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : What are the additional activities and the respective financial resources for such activities under this programme in 2000-01?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek, JP

Reply

: In the light of anticipated increase in workload arising from power related matters, such as further studies relating to interconnection and competition in Hong Kong's electricity supply sector, competition in the major fuel markets, etc, more staff time will be spent on energy issues. The apportionment of staff and central administration costs for Programme (2) : Posts and Power is therefore increased by about \$500,000 in the draft Estimates for 2000-01.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : STEPHEN IP

Post Title : Secretary for Economic Services

Date : 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB058

Question Serial No.

1304

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <u>Head</u> | : 145 Government Secretariat Economic Services Bureau | <u>Subhead</u> (No. & title) : |
| <u>Programme</u> | : (2) Posts and Power | |
| <u>Controlling Officer</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Policy Secretary</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Question</u> | : What is the scope and estimated cost of the follow-up on the feasibility study of promoting efficient use of generating capacity? What is the time require for the study? | |
| <u>Asked by</u> | : Hon. Fred LI Wah-ming, JP | |
| <u>Reply</u> | : Promoting efficient use of generating capacity through increased interconnection was examined in the consultants' Study on Interconnection and Competition in the Hong Kong Electricity Supply Sector. The Administration is seeking public comments on the report and will consider the way forward taking into account the comments received. We envisage that further consultancy studies on reliability, engineering, structural and regulatory issues would be required e.g. detailed engineering studies on system capability and planning criteria for electricity generation and transmission under an increased interconnection scenario, and studies on the routing and timing for the construction of new interconnectors. We hope to be able to start some of these studies in the coming months. We would be in a better position to estimate the duration of these studies after their scope is finalised. | |

We have earmarked \$9 million in the 2000-01 draft Estimates for this purpose in the non-recurrent account under Head 42 - Electrical & Mechanical Services Department. In the light of anticipated increase in workload within Economic Services Bureau arising from these studies and other power related matters, more staff time will be spent on energy issues. The apportionment of staff and central administration expenses for Programme (2) - Posts and Power under Head 145 - Government Secretariat : Economic Services Bureau is increased by about \$500,000 in the 2000-01 draft Estimates.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : _____ STEPHEN IP _____

Post Title : Secretary for Economic Services _____

Date : _____ 16 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

ESB059

Question Serial No.

1305

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <u>Head</u> | : 145 Government Secretariat Economic Services Bureau | <u>Subhead</u> (No. & title) : |
| <u>Programme</u> | : (2) Posts and Power | |
| <u>Controlling Officer</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Policy Secretary</u> | : Secretary for Economic Services | |
| <u>Question</u> | : What plans and resources does the Administration have in 2000-01 to encourage competition in the petrol, diesel oil and liquefied petroleum gas market? | |
| <u>Asked by</u> | : Hon. LI Wah-ming, JP | |
| <u>Reply</u> | : A Competition Subcommittee has been set up in January 2000 under the Energy Advisory Committee to provide a forum for more focused discussion on competition-related issues in the energy sector. This Bureau provides secretarial support to this Subcommittee and liaise with bureaux and departments over examination of various proposals for promoting competition in the fuel market, including the recommendations put forward by the Consumer Council in January 2000. We will also continue to urge oil companies to provide more information about their operations, costs and profit, analyse such data and make public the results to increase transparency. Currently, we have not budgeted for additional resources in the 2000-01 draft Estimates, but we will closely monitor the development and review the need for additional resources in future. | |

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : STEPHEN IP

Post Title : Secretary for Economic Services

Date : 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

ESB060

Question Serial No.

1326

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

Head : 145 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :

Economic Services Bureau

Programme : (2) Posts and Power

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Economic Services

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : What are the additional activities in 2000-01 which require increased provision?

Asked by : Hon. Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Reply : In the light of anticipated increase in workload arising from power related matters, such as further studies relating to interconnection and competition in Hong Kong's electricity supply sector, competition in the major fuel markets, etc, more staff time will be spent on energy issues. The apportionment of staff and central administration costs for Programme (2) : Posts and Power is therefore increased by about \$500,000 in the draft Estimates for 2000-01.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : _____ STEPHEN IP _____

Post Title : _____ Secretary for Economic Services _____

Date : _____ 16 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

ESB061

Question Serial No.

1343

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

Head : 145 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) :

Economic Services Bureau

Programme : (2) Posts and Power

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Economic Services

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Economic Services

Question : Has the Administration any plan to allocate resources for the introduction of specific measures to improve the safety of storage of cylinder LPG by distributors?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : The storage of LPG in cylinders is regulated under the Gas Safety Ordinance and the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations. Under the latter, gas distributors cannot store cylinder LPG with an aggregated nominal water capacity exceeding 130 litres on their premises. A person who wishes to store cylinder LPG in excess of that must obtain the prior approval of the Gas Authority for the construction and use of a notifiable gas installation, such as an LPG store. An application for such approval must state the purpose of the proposed installation and include detailed site plans of the installation and its surrounding environment. Before granting his approval, the Gas Authority must be satisfied that the installation will not present an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of members of the public residing or working in the vicinity. The specific criteria to be met for such approval are set out in a code of practice which is available to the public. They cover engineering and safety requirements, including requirements to ensure adequate separation from other facilities, ventilation and fire prevention measures.

There are currently no plans to modify the requirements for approval of notifiable gas installations. The Gas Authority has however reviewed in consultation with the Gas Safety Advisory Committee

(GSAC) the need to strengthen the regulation of the activities of gas distributors. The GSAC has agreed that, as a first step, a voluntary code of practice detailing the duties and responsibilities of gas distributors should be prepared for further consideration by the Committee and further consultation with the parties concerned. This is being prepared by the Gas Authority with a view to its introduction this year. Concurrently, he is also reviewing the need for legislative and other measures for closer monitoring of gas distributors by registered gas supply companies and enforcement of the code of practice on the activities of gas distributors. Such measures would have resource implications. The Gas Authority will be consulting the GSAC later this year on the outcome of the review.

Signature : _____

Name in block letters : _____ STEPHEN IP

Post Title : _____ Secretary for Economic Services

Date : _____ 21 March 2000