

Bureau Serial No.

SB001

Question Serial No.

0008

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Please tabulate the staffing establishment of the five land border control points of the Border Division in 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

Asked by : The Honourable LEE Kai-ming

Reply :

The staffing establishment of the five land border control points is :

Control Point	Establishment as at 1-4-1999	Establishment as at 1-4-2000
Lo Wu	495 posts	519 posts
Hung Hom	115 posts	115 posts
Lok Ma Chau	203 posts	261 posts
Man Kam To	141 posts	141 posts
Sha Tau Kok	54 posts	54 posts

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB002

Question Serial No.

0009

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Please specify the staffing establishment of the Immigration Task Force in 2000-01.

Asked by : The Honourable LEE Kai-ming

Reply :

There are 95 established posts in the Immigration Task Force. No change is anticipated in the coming financial year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB003

Question Serial No.

0010

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

The duties of control after entry are very heavy but there is a planned deletion of 9 posts in 2000-01. Please specify what these 9 posts are and will it cause manpower shortage?

Asked by : The Honourable LEE Kai-ming

Reply :

The deletion of 9 posts is in accordance with the Department's Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP). It includes 3 posts (typists) to be released from the Visa Control Division upon streamlining existing work process and enhanced office automation; 2 posts (1 Personal Secretary II and 1 Clerical Assistant) for handling transitional and adaptation matters related to the Reunification of HKSAR; and 4 Training Reserve posts (Immigration Assistants) which have become surplus to requirement because our recruitment activities have been scaled down in the advent of EPP. The deletion of these 9 posts will not cause manpower shortage as they have either been left vacant or their services are no longer required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB004

Question Serial No.

0046

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question: (a) In respect of re-integration into society, what are the staff resources allocated for the provision of aftercare, and support services for persons discharged from correctional institution who are under Correctional Services Department's (CSD) supervision?
 (b) How does the Administration promote public support for rehabilitated offenders through education and publicity programmes? What are the staff resource implications?

Asked by: The Honourable Gary CHENG Kai-nam, J.P.

Reply: (a) By adopting the "Through-Care" approach, the rehabilitation process starts as soon as an inmate is admitted into a correctional institution, and continues through his detention and supervision periods.

As at 31.1.2000, there are 141 aftercare officers working in 64 teams to perform supervision and related duties. These teams look after 2 861 cases under supervision and 1 692 cases under detention who will be subject to supervision after release.

Reply (b) A publicity campaign on "Opportunities for Rehabilitated Offenders" was launched in October 1999 and is still continuing. The campaign aims to educate and appeal to the public for their support to the rehabilitated offenders. Major components of the campaign include:

- i) an API that aims to appeal to the public to accept and help rehabilitated offenders;
- ii) a round-the-territory roving exhibition that aims to educate the public on the process of offenders' rehabilitation and the importance of community acceptance;
- iii) posters publicising key messages;
- iv) newspaper articles on life stories of offenders/rehabilitated offenders;
- v) a musical CD collection of the works of offenders; and

vi) a television variety show staged on 20.2.2000 to appeal for community support to the rehabilitated offenders.

A "Committee on Community Support for Rehabilitated Offenders" was formed in November 1999 to advise the Commissioner of Correctional Services on these matters and other long-term publicity strategies. Members of the Committee come from all walks of life in the community. A programme of work for the Committee for the year 2000-01 is being planned and will be finalised shortly.

No additional staff resource is provided for activities connected with the publicity campaign. The extra work is absorbed by existing manpower.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB016

Question Serial No.

0189

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

In respect of the average processing time per entry visa case, since the estimated number of applications received in the coming year will be lower than that of last year, why is it that the work target set has dropped from 90.9% in last year to 85% in the coming year?

Asked by : The Honourable Gary CHENG Kai-nam, JP

Reply :

We estimate that the workload for the coming year will remain the same as the actual workload of 1999, i.e., 86 193, rounded down to the nearest thousand i.e. 86 000.

Notwithstanding the performance pledge to complete processing 70% of entry visa applications within 6 weeks upon receipt of supporting documents, we exceeded the pledge by completing 90.9% of such applications in 1999. This was however achieved through working considerable overtime. Our plan of completing processing 85% of all entry visa applications within the pledged time has been set taking into account our resources available. This planned figure exceeds our current performance pledge of 70%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB022

Question Serial No.

0290

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

As regards the average processing time per entry visa case, the percentage achieved within target working days has dropped from 90.9% in 1999 on the planned 85% in 2000. What accounts for it?

Asked by : The Honourable Selina CHOW

Reply :

Notwithstanding the performance pledge to complete processing 70% of entry visa applications within 6 weeks upon receipt of supporting documents, we exceeded the pledge by completing 90.9% of such applications in 1999. This was however achieved through working considerable overtime. Our plan of completing processing 85% of all entry visa applications within the pledged time has been set taking into account our resources available. This planned figure exceeds our current performance pledge of 70%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB023

Question Serial No.

0291

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Personal Documentation

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

The target set for delivery of services related to identity card on day of applicants' attendance has dropped from 100% in 1999 to 95% in 2000. What accounts for it?

Asked by : The Honourable Selina CHOW

Reply :

The target set for delivery of services related to identity card on day of applicants' attendance was revised from 85% in 1998 to 95% from 1999 onwards.

In 1999, we were able to achieve 100% by means of channelling service (reserving a place for an applicant at any other ROP office where the quota was not yet full on the day of an applicant's attendance) and programming service (offering an appointment to the applicant for him to be served in the same office on another day convenient to him) offered to those applicants who arrived at our ROP offices after the quota is full.

The planned achievement of 95% for 2000 only reflects our current performance pledge.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB 024

Question Serial No.

0346

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 23 – Auxiliary Medical Service

Programme: Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, AMS

Policy Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question: For non-emergency ambulance transfer service, how many requests had been received in 1999-2000 from the Department of Health, the Social Welfare Department, and private hospitals respectively? Amongst these, how many in each category had been actually served? What are the corresponding projections for 2000-01? What was the average response time for each of the category in 1999-2000?

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

Reply: For non-emergency ambulance transfer service, the breakdown of requests received, requests served for each of the category in 1999-2000 and the corresponding projections for 2000-2001 are as follows:

	1999-2000*		2000-2001	
	No. of Requests <u>received</u>	No. of Requests <u>served</u>	Projection of No. of Requests <u>received</u>	Projection of No. of Requests <u>served</u>
Dept. of Health (DH)	15,971	13,995	16,000	14,050
Social Welfare Dept. #	-	-	-	-
Private Hospitals	571	346	575	350
Total:	<u>16,542</u>	<u>14,341</u>	<u>16,575</u>	<u>14,400</u>

All Social Welfare Department's cases were booked through DH clinics or private hospitals

* Figures for 1999-2000 are based on 11 months' projection

AMS non-emergency ambulance transfer service is provided through a first-come-first-served pre-booking system. As such, measurement of performance vis-à-vis target response time is not applicable. However, AMS pledges to meet 80% of the transfer cases within \pm 20 minutes of the appointment time. In 1999-2000, we were able to meet the pledge in 93% and 96.5% of the transfer cases referred by the Department of Health and private hospitals respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

LOK CHAM CHOI

Chief Staff Officer, AMS

16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB027

Question Serial No.

0369

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : (A) Please advise the number of prisoners who applied for participating the following re-integration programmes and the number of successful applications respectively in 1998 and 1999 :

- (1) Release Under Supervision Scheme
- (2) Pre-release Employment Scheme
- (3) Post-release Supervision Scheme
- (4) Conditional Release Scheme

(B) What are the respective number of prisoners under the aforesaid schemes recalled to prison during their supervision period in these two years? What are the reasons for the recalls?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : (A) In 1998 and 1999, 429 and 674 prisoners respectively submitted applications/were considered by the statutory boards concerned, among which, 368 and 639 prisoners respectively participated in the four re-integration programmes as follows :

Scheme*	No. of applications/ cases considered		No. of participants	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
(1) Release Under Supervision Scheme	17	15	2	4
(2) Pre-release Employment Scheme	41	25	1	2

(3) Post-release Supervision Scheme	370	634	364	633
(4) Conditional Release Scheme	1	0	1	0
Total	429	674	368	639

* (1) and (2) are voluntary schemes; eligible prisoners need to submit applications to the boards concerned. For Schemes (3) and (4), the relevant legislation provides that prisoners' participation is determined by the boards concerned; no application is required.

(B) In 1998 and 1999, 13 and 16 prisoners under the aforesaid schemes were recalled to prison during their supervision period respectively. Details are as follows :

Scheme	No. of supervisees recalled		Reasons of recall
	1998	1999	
(1) Release Under Supervision Scheme	0	0	N.A.
(2) Pre-release Employment Scheme	0	0	N.A.
(3) Post-release Supervision Scheme	13	16	Breach of supervision conditions, e.g. losing contact, failing to inform supervising officer about change of job and address, reconviction, etc.
(4) Conditional Release Scheme	0	0	N.A.
Total	13	16	

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB029

Question Serial No.

0443

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 151 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. &
Security Bureau title) :

Programme : (2) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Security

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In respect of the admission of Mainland residents born of Hong Kong residents and eligible for the right of abode in Hong Kong as well as the policies and procedures for the approval of applications from Mainland residents for admission into Hong Kong, will the Administration provide more resources in 2000-01 for holding discussions with the Mainland authorities to facilitate their admission within a reasonable period of time so as to protect their right of family reunion? If yes, how much time and money are the discussions expected to take?

Asked by : The Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

The Certificate of Entitlement Scheme has been operating smoothly to facilitate speedy and orderly entry of persons in the Mainland who enjoy right of abode under Article 24(2)(3). So far, over 61 000 such persons have entered Hong Kong under the Scheme.

Other Mainland residents who wish to come to Hong Kong for settlement may apply for a One-way Permit from the Mainland authorities. There is a daily quota of 150 under the One-way Permit Scheme. About 90 of the quota are set aside for these persons in accordance with a points system introduced in May 1997, while the remaining 60 are allocated to holders of Certificate of Entitlement.

There are well-established channels for regular discussions between the Government and the Mainland authorities to ensure the smooth operation of the two Schemes. No extra funding is necessary for this purpose; nor is there a need for any timetable for their completion since discussions are held as and when required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters RAYMOND WONG

Post Title Acting Secretary for Security

Date 16.3.2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB 030

Question Serial No.

0444

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 151 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. &
Security Bureau title) :

Programme : (2) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Security

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

The provision of \$4,430,000 under Subhead 110 (Honoraria for members of committees) is \$815,000 (22.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to the increased requirement of honoraria payable to the Chief Adjudicator and adjudicators of the Immigration Tribunal arising from an anticipated increase in the number of hearings in 2000-01, following the introduction of the appeal mechanism against the Director of Immigration's refusal to issue Certificate of Entitlement in November 1999. Will the Government inform this Committee of the anticipated increase in the number of hearings?

Asked by : The Hon. Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

The specific stipulations for appeals under Section 2AD of the Immigration Ordinance have been in force since January 2000. It is expected that in 2000-01, the Immigration Tribunal will handle about 370 appeal hearings against the Director of Immigration's refusal to issue Certificates of Entitlement or their copies. In this connection, it is necessary to increase the provision under Subhead 110 (Honoraria for members of committees) to cope with the consequential increase in remuneration payable to the Chief Adjudicator and adjudicators of the Immigration Tribunal.

Signature (signed)

Name in block letters Raymond Wong

Post Title Acting Secretary of Security

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB031

Question Serial No.

0445

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 151 Government Secretariate : Subhead(No. & title) :149 General Departmental
Security Bureau Expenses

Programme : (1) Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Security

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In the provision of \$25,364,000 under Subhead 149 General departmental expenses represents an increase of \$6,030,000 (31.2%) compared to the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to the full-year provision required for operating the Disciplined Services Sports and Recreation Club (DSSRC) which was completed in 1999-2000. Would the Administration advise the Council that why the operational expenses of the DSSRC will increase? What is the estimated number of people using the DSSRC and how much is the increase over last year?

Asked by : Ms Emily LAU

Reply :

Among the total increase of some \$6 million under Subhead 149 on general departmental expenses, \$5.6 million is due to the increased provision for the Disciplined Services Sports and Recreation Club (DSSRC).

The disciplined services departments occupied a joint sports centre at Kai Tak since 1978. The site was resumed in 1990 to make way for the expansion of the Kai Tak Airport. In mid-1997, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the reprovisioning of the facility by building a new DSSRC at So Kon Po. It will provide basic sports and recreational facilities for some 190,000 members (i.e. staff in the seven disciplined services departments and their families). DSSRC members will pay for the use of facilities.

Construction work of the DSSRC was completed in end 1999. For 1999-2000, a provision of \$3.3 million (as per the Revised Estimate) was set aside for the initial operation of the DSSRC, expected in the latter part of 1999-2000 then. For 2000-2001, we have provided for the full-year (i.e. 12 months) provision of about \$8.9 million for meeting the recurrent expenses of the DSSRC. The full operation of the DSSRC is now scheduled for mid-2000.

Signature : _____
Name in block letters: Mr Raymond WONG
Post Title : Acting Secretary for Security
Date : 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB036

Question Serial No.

0574

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : Please advise the respective number of prisoners/inmates attending the following level of education courses in 1998 and 1999 :

- (1) primary school;
- (2) junior secondary;
- (3) senior secondary;
- (4) matriculation;
- (5) post-secondary (Non-graduate); and
- (6) post-secondary (graduate)

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : The required information for 1998 and 1999 is set out below.

Level	Year 1998			Year 1999		
	No. of Prisoners (A)	No. of Inmates (B)	Total No. (A+B)	No. of Prisoners (C)	No. of Inmates (D)	Total No. (C+D)
(1) Primary	370	258	628	450	265	715
(2) Junior Secondary	786	555	1 341	962	602	1 564
(3) Senior Secondary	165	124	289	165	130	295
(4) Matriculation	133	53	186	142	58	200
(5) Tertiary (Non-degree)	12	3	15	16	4	20
(6) Tertiary (Degree)	55	1	56	62	2	64
Total	1 521	994	2 515	1 797	1 061	2 858

Inmates are defined as :

- (a) those detained in Detention Centre, Training Centres or Drug Addiction Treatment Centres;
- (b) those aged under 21 serving a term of prison sentence, and
- (c) those serving a term of prison sentence and subject to supervision under S.109AA of Criminal Procedure Ordinance, Cap. 221.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB037

Question Serial No.

0575

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : For Subhead 194 Prisoners' welfare for 2000-01, what are the respective provisions for lecturers' fees, the purchase of textbooks, stationery and teaching aids, payment of approved recreational activities and religious ministrations ?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : The respective provisions under Sub-head 194 Prisoners' Welfare in 2000-01 are :

	Types of Expenditure	Amount
1.	Part-time Lecturers' Remuneration	\$ 2,355,000
2.	Textbooks	\$ 621,000
3.	Stationery & Teaching Aids	\$ 663,000
4.	Approved Recreational Activities	\$ 619,000
5.	Religious Ministrations	\$ 646,000
	Total :	\$ 4,904,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB038

Question Serial No.

0576

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : Does the increased provision for 2000 include any additional installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)/intrusion detection system for the existing prisons or detention centres? If yes, what are the number of installations and what are the prisons or detention centres in question? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : The Honourable James TO Kun-sun

Reply : The increased provision for year 2000 includes the installation of CCTV/intrusion detection systems for four institutions with details as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| (i) Shek Pik Prison | To replace and improve the CCTV and intrusion detection system. The improved system will comprise 239 cameras, including 77 additional ones. |
| (ii) Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre | To replace and improve the CCTV system. The improved system will comprise 61 cameras, including 22 additional ones. |
| (iii) Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre | To improve the CCTV system of the institution by installing 12 additional cameras. |

Bureau Serial No.

SB039

Question Serial No.

0577

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : What are the expected dates of completion and commencement of operation for the redevelopment of Stanley Prison area (phase II) and the redevelopment of Tai Lam Correctional Institution? Is there any difference against the original schedules?

Asked by : The Honourable James TO Kun-sun

Reply : The Stanley Prison Area Redevelopment Project Phase II which will provide 151 additional penal places will be completed and put into operation in September 2000. The estimated completion date is about 9 months behind schedule mainly due to inclement weather and minor alterations in design during construction phase.

The Redevelopment of Tai Lam Correctional Institution which will provide 260 additional penal places will be completed and put into operation in 2001. Progress of this project is on schedule.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB040

Question Serial No.

0578

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : One of the functions of the Rehabilitation Division of Correctional Services Department (CSD) is to provide education/vocational training for prisoners to enhance their opportunity of gainful employment on release. What is the employment situation of discharged prisoners in 1999? What are the resources involved in providing this service? And for 2000, what plans does the Administration have in helping prisoners re-integrate into society after release? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply : In 1999-2000, about 95% of discharged offenders under the Department's statutory supervision had secured gainful employment upon release. The remaining 5% were housewives, disabled persons and elderly persons. No statistics are kept for discharged offenders who were not put under any of the Department's supervision schemes.

In 1999-2000, about \$48m was spent on education and vocational training for offenders. In addition, CSD had also secured sponsorship from various agencies to conduct vocational training, e.g. the Construction Industry Training Authority provided courses to train prisoners to take up employment in the construction industry.

For 2000-01, the main new measures in helping offenders' re-integration into society and the financial implications are :

Main New Measures	Resources earmarked in 2000-01
(a) introducing new curriculum of education to facilitate young offenders' re-integration into mainstream schools or technical institutes	nil (absorbed by existing resources)
(b) providing multi-media learning centres for young offenders at Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution and Lai Sun Correctional Institution	about \$3.5m
(c) upgrading vocational training facilities and courses to help young offenders obtain City & Guilds or Pitman qualifications	about \$0.9m

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB041

Question Serial No.

0579

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : For 2000, what concrete plans does the Administration have in appealing to the public to lend more support to rehabilitated offenders? What is the estimated expenditure involved? Has the Administration assessed the effectiveness of the publicity programmes in the past?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Public acceptance and support is important for rehabilitated offenders' re-integration into society; helping them re-integrate is helping to reduce crime.

The "Opportunities for Rehabilitated Offenders" publicity campaign was launched in October 1999 and will continue until mid April 2000. Major activities include a TV variety show with the theme "Community Support for Rehabilitated Offenders", poster displays, Announcement of Public Interest broadcasts and round-the-territory exhibitions. On completion of the activities in April 2000, the Correctional Services Department will review the effectiveness of the campaign with a view to mapping out further publicity strategies.

Concrete publicity plans for 2000-01 to appeal for public support for rehabilitated offenders and the estimated expenditure are being finalised. \$1m has initially been reserved through internal savings for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB042

Question Serial No.

0580

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In 1999, there was an upward trend in respect of the number of concerted acts of indiscipline over 1998. Has the Administration assessed the reasons for this? Other than improving the perimeters of institutions to strengthen security, did the authorities concerned consider allotting additional provision for implementing other measures or installing facilities, etc. to help reduce prisoners' chance of escape or committing acts of indiscipline?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The number of incidents of concerted acts of indiscipline are 68 in 1997, 59 in 1998, and 70 in 1999. While the figures do not reveal an obvious upward trend, they may suggest a possible relationship between the penal population or the prison overcrowding situation and the number of concerted acts of indiscipline as follows :

Year	Average Prison Population (Occupancy Rate-%)	Number of Concerted Acts of Indiscipline
1997	10 452 (122)	68
1998	10 066 (115)	59
1999	10 364 (119)	70

Notwithstanding the above, the opening of Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution with 424 places in September 1999 has helped to alleviate the problem of overcrowding to some extent. The on-going redevelopment projects in Stanley Prison and Tai Lam Correctional Institution also aim to further alleviate the problem by adding 411 extra places by 2001. On-going efforts are also made to reshuffle the penal population amongst institutions to maximise the utilisation of existing penal accommodation.

On measures to help reduce prisoners' chance of escape or committing acts of indiscipline, staff of the Correctional Services Department are trained and constantly reminded to watch out for any early signs of conflict amongst prisoners. The purpose is to assist them in resolving their conflicts constructively, promoting goodwill amongst them and enhancing mutual acceptance. Thematic training programmes on security are also organised to forestall prisoners' escape attempts.

To reduce the risks of escape, chain-link fence and barbed-wire coil installed around the perimeter of medium and minimum security institutions are being replaced by stainless, expanded metal mesh and steel razor-tape coil which are proven to be more effective in preventing climbing and tampering.

In addition to the enhancement of perimeter security, a range of measures are being considered to upgrade the searching capacity and enhance the supervision of prisoners. These include the introduction of advanced technologies for vehicle searching, an intruder alarm system in Hei Ling Correctional Institution, surprise visits to outside work groups and the enhancing of the intelligence network. Provision has also been made in 2000-01 for the improvement of existing Closed Circuit Television and intrusion detection system in four institutions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB043

Question Serial No.

0581

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : Regarding the provision under Subhead 700 General other non-recurrent expenditure "Hire of consultancy to review education programmes for correctional institutions", could the Administration advise us the content of the plan as well as the details of expenses for 1999-2000?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : Two consultancies were commissioned in October 1999 with a view to completing the following projects in 2000-01 :

- a) Project A to review the development needs of young offenders and design a new self and social development course to facilitate their smooth re-integration into society; and
- b) Project B to review the training needs of teaching staff in the Correctional Services Department and provide a tailor-made training course to enhance and update their professional skills.

Expenses are/will be :

Project	1999-2000	2000-01	Total
A	\$320,000	\$230,000	\$550,000
B	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000
	\$570,000	\$380,000	\$950,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB056

Question Serial No.

0582

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

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

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

This year, there has been \$950,000 included in the approved commitments and estimated 1999-2000 expenditures for various consultations by just Correctional Services 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	362	950

Asked by : The Honourable Christine LOH

Reply : Contracting out services to achieve savings is not the objective of this exercise. The consultancy studies at issue aim at enhancing the education programmes for young offenders. With the expertise input from the consultants, a new self and social development course will be designed to meet the special needs of young offenders and a special teacher training project will be conducted to enhance the professional skills of existing departmental staff. Such expertise is not readily available within the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB089

Question Serial No.

0640

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 Security

Question : Why does the number of exercises and drills on nuclear safety drop sharply from 7 in 1999 to an estimated of 4 in 2000?

Asked by : The Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Electrical & Mechanical Services Department participated in more exercises in 1999 arranged by the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau and Security Bureau to prepare for the rollover to the year 2000; also in exercises arranged by the Hong Kong Observatory to prepare for the Hong Kong side's participation in the unannounced exercise conducted by the Guangdong Authority. Following the successful rollover to the year 2000 and the completion of the unannounced exercise with the Guangdong side at the end of February, the estimated number of exercises and drills will be reverted to the normal level of four in year 2000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 15 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB052

Question Serial No.

0722

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

Head/ Subhead : 151 – Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Programme : (1) Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Security

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

What is the expenditure of the Secretariat of the Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions for the last financial year? What is the estimated expenditure for this financial year? Is the operation cost for the Secretariat to work on Sundays and public holidays to facilitate public appeals included in the provision?

Asked by : The Hon. Cyd Ho Sau-lan

Reply : The secretariat support of the Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions (the Board) is provided by a Senior Executive Officer of the Security Bureau who also undertakes other responsibilities in the Bureau. The expenditure for the Board is fully covered within the overall provision for Security Bureau in the draft estimates of expenditure 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters RAYMOND WONG

Post Title Acting Secretary for Security

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB057

Question Serial No.

0792

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) As at the end of 1999, how many applications for the "Admission of Talents Scheme" were received by the authorities concerned? What are the number of staff and the expenditure involved in handling the relevant applications respectively?
- (b) How many applications have passed through the assessment process successfully and received approval for coming to Hong Kong? Can the time schedule from the submission of applications to the successful arrival of the applicants be tabulated in details?

Asked by : The Honourable David CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

- (a) Between the implementation date of the Admission of Talents Scheme on 17 December 1999 and end of 1999, we received 2 applications. Till end February 2000, a cumulative total of 69 applications were received. To enable the timely processing of applications under the Scheme, approximately \$4.4 million has been assigned for the creation of 10 additional posts.
- (b) As at the end of February 2000, 4 applications were approved. All the 4 successful applicants have arrived in Hong Kong. It took about 17 to 21 days to complete processing the applications, upon receipt of all the necessary documents from them. It took about another 21 days for the applicants to enter Hong Kong after their entry permits were collected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB058

Question Serial No.

0793

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) The actual number of APEC Business Travel Card – local applications dropped 88% to 64 in 1999 from 543 in 1998. The estimate for 2000 is 900, which is 1306% higher than the actual in 1999. A similar situation also exists for APEC Business Travel Card – referral applications, where there was a drop of 63.2% in 1999, but the estimate for 2000 is 4 times that of 1999.

Can the government explain why the estimate for 2000 is so high, although there was a big drop in 1999?

- (b) The actual number of HKSAR Travel Pass received dropped from 1 828 in 1998 by 74% to 475 in 1999 and it is estimated that the number in 2000 will be 550 only, which is just 15% higher than 475 in 1999. What accounts for such drop?

Asked by : The Honourable Howard YOUNG

Reply :

- (a) New Zealand and Malaysia have joined the APEC Business Travel Card Scheme a few months ago with Thailand expressing interest to join recently. This is likely to bring the total number of participating economies to eight, instead of the original five (Australia; Chile; Hong Kong, China; Korea and the Philippines). Furthermore, the sponsorship requirement of trade-related organisation has been removed. We therefore expect that the number of local applications and referral applications from overseas would increase in 2000.

- (b) The drop in the number of Travel Pass applications was possibly due to the economic ebb in the past years. A conservative approach has been adopted in estimating the expected workload in 2000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB059

Question Serial No.

0794

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Why is it that the Immigration Department has adjusted downward the work target for processing "70% of entry visa applications within 6 weeks upon receipt of supporting documents"?

Asked by : The Honourable CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Notwithstanding the performance pledge to complete processing 70% of entry visa applications within 6 weeks upon receipt of supporting documents, we exceeded the pledge by completing 90.9% of such applications in 1999. This was however achieved through working considerable overtime. Our plan of completing processing 85% of all entry visa applications within the pledged time has been set taking into account our resources available. This planned figure exceeds our current performance pledge of 70%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB060

Question Serial No.

0795

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

According to the key performance measures in respect of control upon entry, all the control points were able to achieve the target. In terms of travelling by land, the percentage of passengers cleared within 30-minute waiting time has shown a slight improvement in 1999 (98.5%).

- Would the Administration inform this Council the percentage of vehicles/passengers cleared within 30-minute waiting time of each land border control point at Lo Wu, Hung Hom, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok and Lok Ma Chau?
- Apart from implementing the Contra-flow Scheme, will the Administration consider allocating resources to implement new measures to cope with the continuously increasing demand for cross-boundary passenger traffic at the busiest land passenger crossing point – Lo Wu?
- Will it be possible to further extend the opening hours of land border control points with existing resource allocation?

Asked by : The Honourable Howard YOUNG

Reply :

- (1) Percentage of passengers cleared within 30-minute waiting time in 1998 and 1999 at land border control points is as follows :-

	Lo Wu	Hung Hom	Lok Ma Chau	Man Kam To	Sha Tau Kok
1998	96.6%	100%	96.61%	100%	100%
1999	96.9%	99.51%	96.20%	100%	100%

Percentage of vehicles cleared within 30-minute waiting time in 1998 and 1999 at land border control points is as follows :-

	Lok Ma Chau	Man Kam To	Sha Tau Kok
1998	94.54%	84.15%	100%
1999	90.33%	84.92%	98.45%

- (2) The Contra-flow Scheme has been introduced as a short-term measure to cope with the increasing demand of passenger traffic at Lo Wu. In the longer term, KCRC will construct a rail spur line from Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau where a new land boundary control point for rail passengers will be set up in 2004. It is expected that the new facilities will alleviate the congestion at Lo Wu.
- (3) The existing resources of the boundary control points are only sufficient to cater for the current opening hours of the land boundary control point.

In considering further extension of the opening hours, factors such as demand, the availability of connecting public transport, parallel arrangements by the Mainland will have to be considered.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB061

Question Serial No.

0796

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (6) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

The actual number of "Requests for assistance by Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong" increased 76.5% to 1 006 in 1999. Apart from 512 requests received during the Taiwan earthquake in September 1999, would the Administration inform this Council the nature and breakdown of the remaining requests?

Asked by : The Honourable Howard YOUNG

Reply :

The nature and breakdown of the other requests (1 006 - 512 = 494) for assistance are as follows :

Imprisoned or detained	237	(159 overseas, 78 in the Mainland)
Loss of travel documents	91	
Accidents	46	
Deaths	17	
Missing persons	12	
Miscellaneous	91	
(financial assistance, hospitalization, etc)		
Total	494	

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB 053

Question Serial No.

0930

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

Head : 121 Independent Police Complaints Council Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer : Secretary, Independent Police Complaints Council

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In 2000-01, the Government will implement the second three-year publicity programme. What are the details of the programme and why does it take three years to complete? Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the last publicity programme? When is the new programme expected to commence and what is the estimated expenditure for it?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Based on the recommendations arising from the independent review and comparative study on police complaints systems conducted in 1996, the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) started a three-year publicity programme in 1997/98. During the three-year period from 1997-98 to 1999-2000, the IPCC had organized a number of publicity activities to enhance public awareness and understanding of the police complaints system in general and of the IPCC in particular. These included seminars for Provisional District Board/District Fight Crime Committee Members, broadcast of TV and Radio Announcements in Public Interest, launching of the IPCC homepage, talks at tertiary institutions and secondary schools and placing of advertisements on public transport. The programme had helped to publicize the independent image and

monitoring role of the IPCC to all walks of life.

The IPCC considers it important to keep up the momentum built up as a result of the first three-year publicity programme. A further three-year programme commencing 2000-01 is therefore required to sustain and reinforce public understanding of the work of the IPCC, in particular among the younger generation. An additional commitment of \$3 million is sought for the purpose. The IPCC plans to organize a public opinion survey to assess the public's understanding of the work and role of the IPCC, a seminar on the police complaints system and a series of TV episodes in 2000-01. The publicity activities to be organized in 2001-02 and 2002-03 will be worked out by the IPCC nearer the time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Annie LEUNG

Post Title Secretary, Independent Police
Complaints Council

Date 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB062

Question Serial No.

0931

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

After the construction of ten additional kiosks at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point in December last year, what will be the projected increase in workload of the Department concerned? Has the growth of cross-boundary vehicular traffic been assessed? And will the above changes affect the estimates of expenditure for the new financial year?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The ten additional kiosks at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point have been put into use since 28 December 1999, with 90 new posts earmarked to man them. The processing capacity of the crossing has increased from 19 000 vehicles to about 32 000 vehicles per day. The Department would incur \$20.498 million in the new financial year to operate these ten additional kiosks.

The additional kiosks have brought relief to the control point as well as traffic on its approach roads. The daily average vehicular traffic for Lok Ma Chau in January 2000 was 20 038. According to the latest forecast, the demand will continue to increase at an annual growth rate of about 9%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB063

Question Serial No.

0932

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

What specific plan does the Government have to strengthen front-line control at all control points? How effective was the work enforced in the past? Will the Government consider increasing manpower to support the work concerned in the new financial year? If not, why not?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Apart from facilitating the travel of bona-fide tourists, business visitors and local residents, the immigration control points are responsible for maintaining immigration control by denying the entry of undesirables including doubtful visitors, fraudulent travel document users, drug smugglers and other criminals.

Considerable efforts and resources are committed to intelligence collection and analysis and to providing on-the-job training to front-line officers to enhance their expertise in immigration clearance work. Regular briefings are given to keep them abreast of the recent trends of undesirable visitors and the modus operandi employed by the forgers. Different types of advanced equipment have been acquired to assist in detecting forged travel documents. Special operations and surveillance exercises are also conducted at various locations such as the transit lounge, transfer areas and departure gates to counter migrant trafficking and entry of persons for illicit purposes. In addition, there is effective co-operation amongst local law-enforcement agencies as well as with Mainland and overseas authorities in combating immigration-related illicit activities.

In 1999, a total of 16 921 persons were refused entry and 3 298 forged travel documents were seized at control points.

The effectiveness of immigration control is being closely monitored. Staff resources will continue to be deployed flexibly within the Department to reinforce the immigration control points whenever necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB065

Question Serial No.

1010

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

How many cases of undesirable persons who are suspected to pose a threat to the security, prosperity and well-being of Hong Kong have been handled by the authorities concerned in the past three financial years? What are the outcome of the investigation of these cases? How many persons have therefore been refused entry by the Immigration Department? Among these people who have been refused entry, how many have lodged appeals? How many appeal cases have been successful? What are the staff manpower and other resources involved in handling these appeals?

Asked by : The Honourable Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

Statistics on persons subjected to secondary examinations upon arrival at control points and undesirables refused permission to land for the past three financial years are set out below -

Year	No. of Persons subject to Secondary Examination	Undesirables Refused Landing
1997/98	178 157	9 791
1998/99	204 936	10 550
1999/2000 (Up to 29 February)	214 163	9 416

During the three financial years, 1 (97/98), 3 (98/99) and 1 (99/2000) appeals were lodged against the Director of Immigration's decision to refuse entry pursuant to section 53 of the Immigration Ordinance, Cap. 115. The first 4 appeals were rejected by the Chief Executive in Council and the remaining one will be placed before the Chief Executive in Council for a decision in April 2000.

The resources incurred for handling appeals vary from case to case but in view of the small number, the resources required are not substantial.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB066

Question Serial No

1011

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : All Programmes

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Which part of the estimates has been allocated by the authorities concerned in investigating complaints against the staff members of the Immigration Department? Please provide the details and the amount of provision involved. How much has the expenditure in this aspect of work been increased or decreased when compared with the estimates for the previous financial year?

Asked by : The Honourable Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

The Customer Services Unit set up under the Management Audit Division of the Administration and Planning Branch of the Immigration Department handles complaints against the immigration service from the public. All complaints received will be fully investigated. The Complaints Review Working Party reviews and analyzes all investigated complaints with a view to making recommendations on appropriate follow-up action. The Working Party is headed by an Assistant Director of the Department. The salary cost incurred and related departmental expenses amount to \$2.43 million in 1999-2000. There is no change in provision when compared with last financial year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB067

Question Serial No.

1012

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) Would the authorities concerned reserve funds for the installation of video-recording facilities? If yes, what is the amount of funds allocated for implementing the scheme? Is the amount enough for the installation of video-recording facilities at all control points? Also, is there appropriate staff manpower for the taking of statements so as to protect the staff of the Immigration Department and the people under suspicion, particularly those who are less self-protective such as the children, the elderly and those people who are vulnerable to discrimination?
- (b) Would the authorities concerned reserve funds for the cultural sensitivity training in preventing the act and attitude of racial discrimination? If yes, what is the training scheme and the estimated expenditure for it? If not, would resources be allocated for the arrangement of related training from the existing estimated expenditure?
- (c) Would the authorities concerned reserve funds specially for the supervision of front-line officers who are responsible for the arrest, detention and inquiry of suspects so as to safeguard the legitimate interests of the suspects?

Asked by : The Honourable Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

- (a) Immigration Department has currently 2 Video Interview Rooms (VIR) located at the Immigration Headquarters for interviewing suspected immigration offenders. Funds have been allocated for the installation of another 5 VIRs, i.e. 2 at the Immigration Headquarters, 2 at the Immigration Task Force at Ma Tau Kok Government Offices and 1 at the Airport. All 5 VIRs will be put into operation within this year.

The average equipment cost of a VIR is \$125,000.

Funds have been reserved for installing 2 more VIRs at the Airport subject to availability of accommodation.

Immigration Department has sufficient trained staff to handle the expected increase in demand for video taped recording interviews. The training is an ongoing exercise.

Video recording of interviews is conducted on suspects of more serious offences, such as suspects involved in forgery syndicates. We do not consider it cost-effective to video-tape interviews on all suspects.

- (b) All immigration staff are trained to treat all persons fairly and equally without regard to race or gender. To this end, the induction and in-service training courses have incorporated modules on the relevant statutory provisions. There is no plan to make additional provisions for these modules.
- (c) Arrangements are in place to safeguard the legitimate interests of subjects of arrest, detention and inquiry. To strengthen supervision of front-line officers in handling these subjects, one Senior Immigration Officer has been re-deployed to the investigation section of the Airport control point since early March 2000. Senior officers in the investigation sections in other control points will conduct more frequent spot checks on the field to enhance supervision. The Management Audit Division has stepped up spot checks and documentary checks to ensure that the investigation officers at front-line strictly comply with the relevant procedures to protect the rights of the persons under immigration custody.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB093

Question Serial No.

1100

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

How many times have the authorities concerned taken action against syndicates arranging the entry of underpaid foreign domestic helpers in the past three financial years? What actions have been taken? How many cases have been investigated? How many prosecutions have been instituted? What was the percentage of successful prosecutions? What proactive actions have been planned in the financial year 2000-2001? In addition, have prosecutions been instituted against employers who breached contracts signed with the foreign domestic helpers, and whose behaviour has contravened the immigration conditions and/or criminal law over the past three financial years?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

Underpayment of wage is an offence under the Employment Ordinance within the purview of the Labour Department. The Immigration Department is equally concerned about the illegal activities of those unscrupulous employment agencies in arranging the entry of FDHs with payment less than the minimum allowable wage. Last year, the Immigration Department conducted a joint operation with the Labour Department and the ICAC against a syndicate involving in arranging the entry of underpaid FDHs. 7 employment agencies were raided. 8 licensees/employees of the targeted employment agencies and 31 FDHs were invited to Immigration offices for enquiries. Prosecution against their employers or employment agencies could not be instituted because the FDHs were not willing to testify against them.

In the coming financial year, the following proactive measures will be taken to tackle the problem of foreign domestic helpers entering into false contracts:

- (a) To continue to tighten up the screening procedures of entry visa application with a view to screening out dishonest applications at the outset.
- (b) To enhance intelligence collection on doubtful employment agencies.
- (c) To step up enforcement operations.

No. of prosecutions instituted against the employers in the past three years are as follows:

		1997	1998	1999
Employers involved in false contracts	Prosecution	5	24	39*
	Conviction	5	21	20
	Conviction rate	100%	88%	51%
Employers involved in illegal deployment/employment of FDHs	Prosecution	101	100	61
	Conviction	97	94	49
	Conviction rate	96%	94%	80%

* including 15 cases pending trial. The number of convictions may increase after completion of these cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB094

Question Serial No.

1101

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

As regards the improvement measures proposed by the Inter-departmental Working Group on the Law Reform Commission Report on Arrest, what measures have the authorities concerned taken in the past three financial years? What measures will be taken in this financial year?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

In the past three financial years, the Immigration Department has taken the following 17 items of improvement measures as proposed by the Inter-departmental Working Group on the Law Reform Commission Report on Arrest. All these items do not require legislative amendments and have been implemented by administrative means:-

- (1) Information on powers and procedures relating to stop, search, detention and arrest are published.
- (2) Information to be made available to Immigration Officer during an identity check under the Immigration Ordinance to be restricted to certain relevant information.
- (3) Immigration Officers should state in layman terms the reasons for the stop and search to the person affected.
- (4) Statistics and information on stops and searches are published for public scrutiny.
- (5) Access to special procedure material should not be subject to an inter partes application made to a judge.
- (6) The person arrested should be informed that he is under arrest and of the

ground for the arrest.

- (7) Persons voluntarily attending at Immigration office to assist with an investigation shall be entitled to leave at will and shall be informed at once that he is under arrest if a decision is taken to prevent him from leaving at will.
- (8) The person arrested should be taken to a nearest police station as soon as practicable. Other law enforcement agencies may convey their arrested persons to their nearest offices instead of a police station.
- (9) The period of detention for each arrest should be calculated from the time a person was arrested for an offence originally, even if the same person is arrested for some other offences during the detention period.
- (10) "Custody Officers" and "Review Officers" are to be appointed in Immigration office to ensure that those in detention are treated properly and to carry out review of the need for further detention.
- (11) A person who is detained after charge should be taken before the court as soon as practicable, and in any event no later than the first sitting of a court after the person has been charged.
- (12) Statistics on detention would be made available upon request.
- (13) "Custody Officer" will be authorised to search a detained person to ascertain and record everything the person has with him.
- (14) Additional safeguards to children and young persons under arrest have been adopted.
- (15) Tape-recording and video-taping of interviews have been implemented.
- (16) The existing practice of making available legal aid to persons charged with a criminal offence should continue.
- (17) No need to provide for the right to witness destruction of finger-prints or samples taken. It would be sufficient to return them to the person from whom the finger-prints or samples are taken.

The Security Bureau will continue to co-ordinate the implementation of other recommended improvement measures in this financial year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB095

Question Serial No.

1102

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the numbers of deportation orders made by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or the Governor of Hong Kong in accordance with Section 20(1)(a) and 20(1)(b) of the Immigration Ordinance respectively over the past three financial years? How many objections lodged in accordance with Section 53(1) of the Immigration Ordinance have altogether been received in the past three financial years? Of these objections, how many succeeded in doing so? Have the authorities concerned made any public performance pledge or internal Code of Practice as regards the time limit in handling this kind of objections? How many cases do comply with this pledge and/or Code of Practice? It is the usual practice of the Government not to inform the person who may be aggrieved of this channel for lodging objections. Does the Government, on seeing that there are not enough resources to handle appeals for this kind of objections, resort to maintaining such a usual practice? In case this channel of lodging appeals is widely publicized, how many cases of objections would the Government estimate? What are the additional resources needed for handling these objections?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

Over the past three financial years, no deportation orders were made under section 20(1)(b) of the Immigration Ordinance. The number of deportation orders made under section 20(1)(a) of the Immigration Ordinance are:

97/98	98/99	99/2000
549	544	657

The number of objections lodged in accordance with section 53(1) of the Immigration Ordinance are :

97/98	98/99	99/2000
5	1	0

Of these objections, one case in 97/98 was successful.

There is no public performance pledge or Code of Practice as regards the time limit in handling such objections. It is the general practice of the department to process the case immediately upon receiving an objection and to complete such processing as soon as practicable.

For a person whom the Administration is considering his deportation under section 20(1)(a) of the Immigration Ordinance, a "Notice of Consideration of Deportation" is served upon such person notifying him, among other things, such intention, its reasons, the effect of a deportation order, and inviting such person and his family members to make representations if he/they so wish. Statistics showed that about 30% of the potential deportees had made such representations. A potential deportee is normally serving an imprisonment sentence in jail when the deportation enquiries are made. His rights of access to relatives and lawyers are safeguarded by the relevant prison rules.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB090

Question Serial No.

1118

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 151 **Subhead (No. & title):**

Programme: (1) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Security

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question: Would the Government please advise this Council whether the Chief Executive has completed determination of the minimum terms of imprisonment for the young offenders detained until Her Majesty's pleasure be known? If yes, has the Security Bureau allocated additional resources to ensure that this kind of prisoners will receive a one-third sentence remission for good conduct as other prisoners will, so that they need not complete the entire minimum terms before they can have their cases reviewed and be released?

Asked by: The Hon. Emily Lau

Reply: In accordance with section 67C of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, the Chief Executive had determined the minimum terms of imprisonment for the 15 prisoners detained at Executive discretion (an indeterminate sentence, formerly known as "detention until Her Majesty's pleasure is known"). Such a minimum term is the punitive part of the sentence that the prisoner has to serve in relation to the offence committed. It is not a determinate sentence. Rule 69 of the Prison Rules which provides for sentence remission only applies to determinate sentences and therefore does not apply to the minimum terms at issue.

In accordance with section 11(3) of the Long-term Prison Sentences Review Ordinance (“the Ordinance”), the Long-term Prison Sentences Review Board (“the Board”) had also reviewed the indeterminate sentences of these prisoners following the Chief Executive's decision on the minimum terms. The Board will continue to review the sentences every two years as required under the Ordinance. Furthermore, six months before the expiry of the minimum term, the Board will conduct another review and according to section 15(1)(a)(ii) of the Ordinance, may make a recommendation to the Chief Executive to substitute a prisoner’s indeterminate sentence with a determinate sentence. To date, one of the 15 above-mentioned prisoners has been granted a determinate sentence by the Chief Executive. Sentence remission as provided under Rule 69 of the Prison Rules would therefore apply with regard to the determinate sentence now being served by that prisoner.

In respect of an indeterminate sentence or a determinate sentence converted from an indeterminate sentence, the Board is required to conduct regular reviews and is empowered to order early release of a prisoner in certain circumstances. However, according to section 12(2) of the Ordinance, the Board is not authorized to order a prisoner's early release before any minimum term applicable to the prisoner has been served.

The Security Bureau and the Correctional Services Department have ensured that appropriate mechanism and adequate resources are in place to provide prisoners with suitable counselling services and rehabilitation programmes, as well as regular reviews of their sentences as required under the law. No additional resource is provided for such purposes in 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mr Raymond WONG

Post Title Acting Secretary for Security

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB096

Question Serial No.

1124

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control After Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

(A) It states that the Immigration Department will take proactive actions against syndicates arranging the entry of underpaid foreign domestic helpers. Please advise :

1. How many syndicates were discovered last year?
2. How many persons have been prosecuted under the syndicates, of which how many are employers and foreign domestic helpers respectively?
3. What are these proactive actions?
4. How many officers are now responsible to investigate these syndicates and will the Immigration Department consider increasing the number of personnel in tackling this problem?
5. Will the Immigration Department consider interviewing every prospective employer to ensure there is a genuine offer?

(B) It states that the Immigration Department will take proactive actions against the engagement of foreign domestic helpers in non-domestic jobs. Please advise :

1. What are these proactive actions? Will the Immigration Department step up the enforcement actions against employers for asking domestic helpers performing non-domestic jobs in 1999-2000?
2. How many foreign domestic helpers have been prosecuted for performing non-domestic jobs in 1999-2000?
3. How many employers have been prosecuted for asking foreign domestic helpers to perform non-domestic jobs in 1999-2000?

Asked by : The Honourable Christine LOH

Reply :

- (A) 1. & 2. Underpayment of wage is an offence under the Employment Ordinance. The Immigration Department is concerned about the illegal activities of those unscrupulous employment agencies in arranging the entry of FDHs with payment less than the minimum allowable wage. Last year, the Immigration Department conducted a joint operation with the Labour Department and the ICAC against a syndicate involving in arranging the entry of underpaid FDHs. 7 employment agencies were raided. 8 licensees/employees of the targeted employment agencies and 31 FDHs were invited to Immigration offices for enquiries. As a result, 4 FDHs were prosecuted and convicted for making false representation and the others were released after enquiries due to insufficient evidence. Prosecution against their employers or other persons intercepted could not be instituted as the FDHs were not willing to testify against them.
3. In the coming financial year, the following proactive measures will be taken to tackle the problem of foreign domestic helpers entering into false contracts:
- (a) To continue to tighten up the screening procedures of entry visa application with a view to screening out dishonest applications at the outset.
 - (b) To enhance intelligence collection on doubtful employment agencies.
 - (c) To step up enforcement operations.
4. At present, 17 officers under the establishment of Investigation Division are deployed to investigate cases concerning illegal employment of foreign domestic helpers, including false contract syndicates. At present, Immigration Department has no plan to increase the staff establishment. Internal deployment of staff will be effected should circumstances justify.
5. Owing to the large volume of applications processed (about 5 000 per month), it is not possible to interview all prospective employers of foreign domestic helpers. Employers will only be called for interview to clarify irregularities. However, we will conduct internal record checks for previous adverse records as well as random checks to verify information supplied by employers.

- (B) 1. The following measures will be taken to combat the illegal employment of foreign domestic helpers to perform non-domestic duties in the coming year:-
- (a) To tighten up the screening procedures of entry visa application with a view to screening out dishonest applications at the outset.
 - (b) To enhance intelligence collection and step up enforcement operations against doubtful employment agencies.
 - (c) To step up investigation and prosecution actions against foreign domestic helpers taking up part-time work and other unauthorised work and also their employers who aid or abet in the process.
 - (d) To enhance publicity to drive home the message that hiring illegal workers is a criminal offence and encourage members of the public to report illegal employment by using the Immigration Department hotline or fax line.
 - (e) To continue with existing measures including issuing 'W' prefix identity card to FDHs, bringing cases to higher courts for review where the sentence is manifestly inadequate, reminding employers of the need to report to Immigration Department within seven days of termination of an FDH contract and the legal requirement to inspect travel documents of non-HKPR job seekers, etc.
2. & 3. In 1999, 141 foreign domestic helpers were prosecuted for taking up unapproved employment and 61 employers were prosecuted for aiding and abetting foreign domestic helpers to take up unapproved employment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB097

Question Serial No.

1162

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Will the authorities concerned inform us whether children under the age of 18 belonging to different age groups who have made illegal entry or have been suspected of entering Hong Kong illegally be detained after being arrested? Will they be allowed to be released on bail? What kind of detention facilities will be arranged for them in accordance with the ages and sex? When young children are arrested together with their fathers or/and mothers, is there any special measure in place to prevent these young children from being separated from their arrested fathers or/and mothers? If yes, how much funds will be allocated to implement this measure? If not, will funds be reserved for the implementation of this special measure? In the past three financial years, how long is the period of detention for the five longest children detainees aged under 7 and the five longest children detainees between the ages of 7 and 14 who have made illegal entry or have been suspected of entering Hong Kong illegally?

Asked by : The Honourable Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

Illegal immigrants intercepted are subject to detention pending repatriation. Consideration is given to release on recognizance if immediate repatriation cannot be arranged. However, if arrested minor illegal immigrants have no relatives in Hong Kong they will be detained pending removal to their place of origin.

Schedule 2 of the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order sets out the designated places of detention for minor illegal immigrants. According to their age and sex, they will usually be placed under the care of the following three detention centres :

Place of Detention	Criteria on age and sex
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The Chuk Yuen Children's Reception Center	all minors under the age of 8
Ma Tau Wai Girls' Home	female minors between 8 - 17
Pui Chi Boys' Home	male minors between 8 - 17

When a minor illegal immigrant is intercepted together with his father and/or mother, the minor illegal immigrant will usually be detained together with his father/mother taking into consideration of the safety, family unity and other considerations in the best interest of the minor. Usually, they will be detained in the Victoria Immigration Center pending repatriation. No additional funding is required under this arrangement.

Under normal circumstances, the detention period for minor illegal immigrants pending repatriation would not exceed 4 days. However, the detention period for illegal immigrants (including minors) from Vietnam is usually longer because of the need to confirm their identity and obtain re-entry clearance from Vietnam Government. Cases of minor illegal immigrants with longest detention period in the past three financial years are as follows :

(a) For minor under 7 :

4 months (1), 1.5 months (1) and 12 days (3).

(b) For minor between 7 - 14 :

5.5 months (1) ; 5 month (1) ; 2.5 months (1) and 1.5 months (2)

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB098

Question Serial No.

1275

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the manpower resources needed for handling the Admission of Talents Scheme?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Ten posts will be needed in 2000-01 for the Immigration Department to operate the Admission of Talents Scheme. The posts comprise 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 1 Senior Immigration Officer, 6 Immigration Officers, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB099

Question Serial No.

1276

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

In the Estimates, the Government has anticipated a substantial increase in the number of persons who will be repatriated and the number of persons who will be prosecuted for breaching the Immigration Ordinance in 2000. Will the Government explain the reasons for it? Is it necessary to increase manpower to handle the above work?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The increase in prosecutions of immigration offenders is consistent with the upward trend observed in recent years. As regards the increase in the number of persons repatriated, provision is made as more mainland overstayers may be repatriated when the right of abode litigations are concluded. Staff resources will be deployed flexibly within the Department to handle the work whenever necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB100

Question Serial No.

1277

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

As regards the work against the engagement of foreign domestic helpers in non-domestic jobs, what actions have been taken in the past and how effective were they? What measures will be taken by the Government to step up the enforcement actions in 2000?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Immigration Department is committed to combating the problem of illegal employment of foreign domestic helpers. In the past years as well as the coming year, the following proactive measures have been and will continue to be taken: -

- (a) To tighten up the screening procedures of entry visa application with a view to screen out dishonest applications at the outset.
- (b) To enhance intelligence collection and step up enforcement actions against doubtful employment agencies.
- (c) To step up investigation and prosecution actions against foreign domestic helpers taking up part-time work and other unauthorised work and also their employers who aid or abet in the process.
- (d) To enhance publicity to drive home the message that hiring illegal workers is a criminal offence and

- (e) To continue with existing measures including issuing 'w' prefix identity card to foreign domestic helpers, bring cases to higher courts for review where the sentence is manifestly inadequate, reminding employers of the need to report to Immigration Department within seven days of termination of an foreign domestic helper contract and the legal requirement to inspect travel documents of non-HKPR job-seekers, etc.

These measures have been effective in containing the problem of foreign domestic helper taking illegal work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB101

Question Serial No.

1293

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

In respect of control upon entry,

- (a) concerning the clearance of passengers travelling by air within 15-minute waiting time, why is it that the performance target has dropped from 98.1% in 1999 to 92% in the coming year?
- (b) after the construction of ten additional kiosks at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point in December 1999, what is the percentage increase in the number of posts? What will be the implications on work done subsequent to the deletion of 49 posts in the coming year?

Asked by : The Honourable Gary CHENG Kai-nam

Reply :

- (a) The performance pledge for passenger clearance at the Airport Control Point was revised in October 1998 after the commissioning of the airport at Chek Lap Kok. The enhanced performance standard is to clear 92% of travellers within 15-minute waiting time instead of 30 minutes. This was the performance pledge for 1999.

In 1999, the Airport Control Point was able to clear 98.1% of the arriving and departing passengers within 15 minutes. The planned achievement of 92% for 2000 is a continuation of the performance pledge last year.

- (b) A total of 90 new posts at various ranks have been earmarked for manning the 10 additional kiosks, representing an increase of 44.3% over the previous establishment at the Lok Ma Chau control point.

49 posts will be deleted in 2000-01 in the visa and administration offices. They were identified through critical re-assessment of service demands and re-grouping of duties. None of the posts at the control points will be affected. When devising our EPP plan, the Immigration Department is conscious of the criterion not to lower the service level and standard.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB102

Question Serial No.

1303

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Under Programme (1), the financial provision for 2000-01 is 12.5% higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000 due to the creation of 37 posts to cope with the increasing workload. Please inform this Council

- how many of them are responsible for implementing the Admission of Talents Scheme and what are their ranks and duties?
- how much resources will be allocated to implement the Admission of Talents Scheme?
- the progress of implementing the Admission of Talents Scheme?

Asked by : The Honourable Howard YOUNG

Reply :

- (a) Of the 37 posts, 10 will be for operating the Admission of Talents Scheme. The 10 posts comprise 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 1 Senior Immigration Officer, 6 Immigration Officers, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant. The immigration officers are responsible for processing the applications and handling operational matters of the Scheme.
- (b) About \$4.4 million will be required for the creation of the 10 posts for the Admission of Talents Scheme.
- (c) The Scheme has been in smooth progress since its implementation on 17 December 1999. As at the end of February 2000, a total of 69 applications were received. Of them, 4 were approved; 16 were refused/withdrawn; and 49 were under processing.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB103

Question Serial No.

1329

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) In 2000-01, the Government estimates that there will be an increased expenditure of \$20.2 million for the creation of 37 posts to cope with the workload arising from the Admission of Talents Scheme and the applications for the Certificate of Entitlement. What is the number of new posts required respectively for the two projects?
- (b) Has the Government assessed the number of applications for the Admission of Talents Scheme that each new post can process on average?
- (c) How many applications have been received since the implementation of the Admission of Talents Scheme? And how many applications have been approved?

Asked by : The Honourable LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) Of the 37 posts, 27 will be created by the Immigration Department for handling applications and appeals relating to the Certificate of Entitlement Scheme; and 10 for processing applications and handling operational matters of the Admission of Talents Scheme.
- (b) The 10 posts earmarked for the Admission of Talents Scheme operate as a team and is expected to handle about 2 000 applications in the first year.
- (c) The Admission of Talents Scheme was implemented on 17 December 1999. As at end February 2000, a total of 69 applications were received. Of them, 4 applications have been approved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB005

Question Serial No.

0044

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme : Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention (4502)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : As far as building inspections are concerned, have the authorities planned to deploy more manpower to deal with poorly managed old buildings with unauthorized rooftop structures? If yes, what are the plans?

Asked by : The Honourable Gary CHENG Kai-nam, J.P.

Reply : The Fire Services Department continues to maintain regular inspections to poorly managed old buildings, including those with unauthorized rooftop structures. Additional resources will be allocated to the Department for creation of 66 posts by phases in 2000-01 and 2001-02 to step up fire safety inspections in existing buildings, in particular the old composite buildings. Furthermore, the Fire Services and Buildings Departments will jointly set up a Steering Committee to better coordinate our efforts and resources to more efficiently and effectively deal with fire safety problems in existing buildings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB006

Question Serial No.

0045

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme : Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention (4502)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : The authorities have deleted 19 posts in the new financial year, while the 9 new posts are created to provide administrative support for the two fire protection Commands only. Under such circumstances, how can the efficiency of fire protection work be enhanced?

Asked by : The Honourable Gary CHENG Kai-nam, J.P.

Reply : Of the 19 posts to be deleted in 2000-01 under the Enhanced Productivity Programme, 17 posts arise from contracting out the provision and maintenance of portable fire fighting equipment in government premises. Regarding the remaining 2 posts, the work will be absorbed by redeployment of staff from Headquarters Administration. Thus, the efficiency of fire protection work will not be affected. To further enhance fire protection work, additional resources will be allocated to the Department for creation of 66 posts by phases in 2000-01 and 2001-02 to step up fire safety inspections in existing buildings.

Signature _____
Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU
Post Title Director of Fire Services
Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB008

Question Serial No.

0080

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

- Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department
- Programme: Programme (3) Ambulance Service (4503)
- Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services
- Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security
- Question: In respect of the matters requiring special attention in 2000-01 –
- (a) Please provide the timetable and amount of appropriation for continuing the examination of the possibility of providing all Ambulance Aid Motorcycles with paramedic capabilities.
 - (b) Please account for the staff establishment and estimated appropriation required for the development of a community education programme which includes the provision of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation training for the general public and staff of elderly homes.
- Asked by: The Honourable Lee Kai-ming, S.B.S., J.P.
- Reply:
- (a) The study on upgrading Ambulance Aid Motorcycle service to Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) II level has been completed. The results confirm that such programme is feasible. The Department plans to begin implementing this programme by stages in 2000-01. The additional resources involved in this programme are only restricted to the special allowances and training provided to EMA IIs as well as the cost of replacing some motorcycles and paramedic equipment of the motorcycles.
 - (b) The Fire Services Department has been implementing the community education programme since April 1999. Under this

programme, over 1 700 staff members of elderly homes and about 200 Fire Safety Ambassadors have received Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training. The Department will continue to implement this programme in 2000–01 to provide training to voluntary organizations and interested individuals. Our target is to train 2 000 people. This programme is implemented under the Enhanced Productivity Programme. The Department does not require additional staff and funds to meet the existing demand.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>TSANG KWONG YU</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Fire Services</u>
Date	<u>16 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

SB021

Question Serial No.

0289

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme: Programme (3) Ambulance Service (4503)

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question: In 1999, 93.3% of all emergency calls were answered within the 12-minute target response time. What is the reason for its downward adjustment to 92.5% in the plan for 2000?

Asked by: The Honourable Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye,
J.P.

Reply: In 1999, the Fire Services Department's emergency ambulance service target is 92.5% of all emergency calls answered within the target response time of 12 minutes. The average performance in this respect was 93.3% in 1999. However, in view of the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service year by year and in consideration of manpower deployment and district development in this financial year, the Fire Services Department considers it more practicable and reasonable to maintain the performance pledge of 92.5% at this stage. The Department is conducting an overall review of emergency ambulance services, particularly paramedic ambulance service, with a view to determining the standard, quality and performance pledge of future emergency ambulance services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB032

Question Serial No.

0485

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme : Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention (4502)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : Regarding the Fire Services Ambassador Scheme, has the Department evaluated the degree of effectiveness of such a scheme conducted in 1999-2000?

Asked by : The Honourable Edward S.T. HO, S.B.S., J.P.

Reply : Up to date, the Department has trained 10 085 Fire Services Ambassadors (FSAs) coming from 31 private and public organizations. These FSAs have helped close more than 33 000 wedged-open smoke stop doors and reported 347 fire hazards. In addition, the FSAs actively took part in fire prevention campaigns and related activities. The Fire Services Ambassador Scheme is considered very effective. In 2000-01, we plan to recruit 5 000 more FSAs.

Signature _____
Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU
Post Title Director of Fire Services
Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB046

Question Serial No.

0651

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme : Programme (3) Ambulance Service (4503)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In regard to emergency calls that were answered within the target response time of 12 minutes:

- (1) In the past two years, what were the respective figures for emergency calls answered by ambulance aid motorcycles earlier and those answered by ambulances earlier? How did these figures represent in percentages of the total emergency calls answered?
- (2) With respect to cases in which ambulance aid motorcycles arrived at scene earlier than ambulances, please provide figures on the time lag between the arrival of ambulance aid motorcycles and that of ambulances, as well as the average time lag.

Asked by : The Honourable James TO Kun-sun

Reply : From November 1998, the Fire Services Department used travel time and then response time as the emergency ambulance service performance indicator. All along, only the time for the first batch of ambulance resources arriving at scene was recorded for statistical purpose and we do not keep separate statistical information on the arrival of ambulances and ambulance aid motorcycles for comparison as mentioned in the question. Nevertheless, in January 2000, the Legco Security Panel requested the Fire Services Department to collect statistics on ambulance aid motorcycles' contribution to the overall emergency ambulance service in the 3-month period preceding March 2000. According to the preliminary information, over 93% of emergency calls were responded within the 12-minute response time which was slightly higher than the pledged emergency ambulance service performance target of 92.5%. Out of the above 93%, less than 1% of emergency calls relied on the contribution of the ambulance aid motorcycles in meeting the target response time of 12 minutes. The Department will present all gathered information to the Panel for scrutiny as soon as possible.

Signature _____
Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU
Post Title Director of Fire Services
Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB047

Question Serial No.

0652

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme : Programme (3) Ambulance Service (4503)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : Under the Enhanced Productivity Programme, the Fire Services Department plans to replace ambulances with ambulance aid motorcycles. What are the estimated number of ambulances to be reduced and estimated number of ambulance aid motorcycles to be increased for the year 2000-01? How much resources will be involved?

Asked by : The Honourable LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : Under the Enhanced Productivity Programme, the Fire Services Department will not replace 3 ambulances which are no longer serviceable and will procure 9 ambulance aid motorcycles (including one motorcycle for reserve purposes) for the year 2000-01. This arrangement will not only enhance the use and deployment of the Department's resources, but will also extend the coverage of the ambulance aid motorcycle service. As a result, the Department will be able to attend emergency calls more flexibly and efficiently in districts where traffic is busy or remote areas without road networks. Under this enhanced productivity arrangement, there will be a decrease of 20 Ambulanceman posts in the Department's establishment. Consequently, about \$3.6m of annual personal emoluments and \$0.43m of annual departmental expenses will be saved. The reduction of 20 posts have been included in the vacancies in the establishment of Ambulanceman. Therefore, the number of frontline Ambulancemen, in fact, will not be affected or reduced.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB001

Question Serial No.

0008

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Please tabulate the staffing establishment of the five land border control points of the Border Division in 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

Asked by : The Honourable LEE Kai-ming

Reply :

The staffing establishment of the five land border control points is :

Control Point	Establishment as at 1-4-1999	Establishment as at 1-4-2000
Lo Wu	495 posts	519 posts
Hung Hom	115 posts	115 posts
Lok Ma Chau	203 posts	261 posts
Man Kam To	141 posts	141 posts
Sha Tau Kok	54 posts	54 posts

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB002

Question Serial No.

0009

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Please specify the staffing establishment of the Immigration Task Force in 2000-01.

Asked by : The Honourable LEE Kai-ming

Reply :

There are 95 established posts in the Immigration Task Force. No change is anticipated in the coming financial year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB003

Question Serial No.

0010

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

The duties of control after entry are very heavy but there is a planned deletion of 9 posts in 2000-01. Please specify what these 9 posts are and will it cause manpower shortage?

Asked by : The Honourable LEE Kai-ming

Reply :

The deletion of 9 posts is in accordance with the Department's Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP). It includes 3 posts (typists) to be released from the Visa Control Division upon streamlining existing work process and enhanced office automation; 2 posts (1 Personal Secretary II and 1 Clerical Assistant) for handling transitional and adaptation matters related to the Reunification of HKSAR; and 4 Training Reserve posts (Immigration Assistants) which have become surplus to requirement because our recruitment activities have been scaled down in the advent of EPP. The deletion of these 9 posts will not cause manpower shortage as they have either been left vacant or their services are no longer required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB004

Question Serial No.

0046

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question: (a) In respect of re-integration into society, what are the staff resources allocated for the provision of aftercare, and support services for persons discharged from correctional institution who are under Correctional Services Department's (CSD) supervision?
 (b) How does the Administration promote public support for rehabilitated offenders through education and publicity programmes? What are the staff resource implications?

Asked by: The Honourable Gary CHENG Kai-nam, J.P.

Reply: (a) By adopting the "Through-Care" approach, the rehabilitation process starts as soon as an inmate is admitted into a correctional institution, and continues through his detention and supervision periods.

As at 31.1.2000, there are 141 aftercare officers working in 64 teams to perform supervision and related duties. These teams look after 2 861 cases under supervision and 1 692 cases under detention who will be subject to supervision after release.

Reply (b) A publicity campaign on "Opportunities for Rehabilitated Offenders" was launched in October 1999 and is still continuing. The campaign aims to educate and appeal to the public for their support to the rehabilitated offenders. Major components of the campaign include:

- i) an API that aims to appeal to the public to accept and help rehabilitated offenders;
- ii) a round-the-territory roving exhibition that aims to educate the public on the process of offenders' rehabilitation and the importance of community acceptance;
- iii) posters publicising key messages;
- iv) newspaper articles on life stories of offenders/rehabilitated offenders;
- v) a musical CD collection of the works of offenders; and

vi) a television variety show staged on 20.2.2000 to appeal for community support to the rehabilitated offenders.

A "Committee on Community Support for Rehabilitated Offenders" was formed in November 1999 to advise the Commissioner of Correctional Services on these matters and other long-term publicity strategies. Members of the Committee come from all walks of life in the community. A programme of work for the Committee for the year 2000-01 is being planned and will be finalised shortly.

No additional staff resource is provided for activities connected with the publicity campaign. The extra work is absorbed by existing manpower.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB016

Question Serial No.

0189

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

In respect of the average processing time per entry visa case, since the estimated number of applications received in the coming year will be lower than that of last year, why is it that the work target set has dropped from 90.9% in last year to 85% in the coming year?

Asked by : The Honourable Gary CHENG Kai-nam, JP

Reply :

We estimate that the workload for the coming year will remain the same as the actual workload of 1999, i.e., 86 193, rounded down to the nearest thousand i.e. 86 000.

Notwithstanding the performance pledge to complete processing 70% of entry visa applications within 6 weeks upon receipt of supporting documents, we exceeded the pledge by completing 90.9% of such applications in 1999. This was however achieved through working considerable overtime. Our plan of completing processing 85% of all entry visa applications within the pledged time has been set taking into account our resources available. This planned figure exceeds our current performance pledge of 70%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB022

Question Serial No.

0290

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

As regards the average processing time per entry visa case, the percentage achieved within target working days has dropped from 90.9% in 1999 on the planned 85% in 2000. What accounts for it?

Asked by : The Honourable Selina CHOW

Reply :

Notwithstanding the performance pledge to complete processing 70% of entry visa applications within 6 weeks upon receipt of supporting documents, we exceeded the pledge by completing 90.9% of such applications in 1999. This was however achieved through working considerable overtime. Our plan of completing processing 85% of all entry visa applications within the pledged time has been set taking into account our resources available. This planned figure exceeds our current performance pledge of 70%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB023

Question Serial No.

0291

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Personal Documentation

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

The target set for delivery of services related to identity card on day of applicants' attendance has dropped from 100% in 1999 to 95% in 2000. What accounts for it?

Asked by : The Honourable Selina CHOW

Reply :

The target set for delivery of services related to identity card on day of applicants' attendance was revised from 85% in 1998 to 95% from 1999 onwards.

In 1999, we were able to achieve 100% by means of channelling service (reserving a place for an applicant at any other ROP office where the quota was not yet full on the day of an applicant's attendance) and programming service (offering an appointment to the applicant for him to be served in the same office on another day convenient to him) offered to those applicants who arrived at our ROP offices after the quota is full.

The planned achievement of 95% for 2000 only reflects our current performance pledge.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB 024

Question Serial No.

0346

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head 23 – Auxiliary Medical Service

Programme: Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, AMS

Policy Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question: For non-emergency ambulance transfer service, how many requests had been received in 1999-2000 from the Department of Health, the Social Welfare Department, and private hospitals respectively? Amongst these, how many in each category had been actually served? What are the corresponding projections for 2000-01? What was the average response time for each of the category in 1999-2000?

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

Reply: For non-emergency ambulance transfer service, the breakdown of requests received, requests served for each of the category in 1999-2000 and the corresponding projections for 2000-2001 are as follows:

	1999-2000*		2000-2001	
	No. of Requests <u>received</u>	No. of Requests <u>served</u>	Projection of No. of Requests <u>received</u>	Projection of No. of Requests <u>served</u>
Dept. of Health (DH)	15,971	13,995	16,000	14,050
Social Welfare Dept. #	-	-	-	-
Private Hospitals	571	346	575	350
Total:	<u>16,542</u>	<u>14,341</u>	<u>16,575</u>	<u>14,400</u>

All Social Welfare Department's cases were booked through DH clinics or private hospitals

* Figures for 1999-2000 are based on 11 months' projection

AMS non-emergency ambulance transfer service is provided through a first-come-first-served pre-booking system. As such, measurement of performance vis-à-vis target response time is not applicable. However, AMS pledges to meet 80% of the transfer cases within ± 20 minutes of the appointment time. In 1999-2000, we were able to meet the pledge in 93% and 96.5% of the transfer cases referred by the Department of Health and private hospitals respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

LOK CHAM CHOI

Chief Staff Officer, AMS

16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB027

Question Serial No.

0369

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : (A) Please advise the number of prisoners who applied for participating the following re-integration programmes and the number of successful applications respectively in 1998 and 1999 :

- (1) Release Under Supervision Scheme
- (2) Pre-release Employment Scheme
- (3) Post-release Supervision Scheme
- (4) Conditional Release Scheme

(B) What are the respective number of prisoners under the aforesaid schemes recalled to prison during their supervision period in these two years? What are the reasons for the recalls?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : (A) In 1998 and 1999, 429 and 674 prisoners respectively submitted applications/were considered by the statutory boards concerned, among which, 368 and 639 prisoners respectively participated in the four re-integration programmes as follows :

Scheme*	No. of applications/ cases considered		No. of participants	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
(1) Release Under Supervision Scheme	17	15	2	4
(2) Pre-release Employment Scheme	41	25	1	2

(3) Post-release Supervision Scheme	370	634	364	633
(4) Conditional Release Scheme	1	0	1	0
Total	429	674	368	639

* (1) and (2) are voluntary schemes; eligible prisoners need to submit applications to the boards concerned. For Schemes (3) and (4), the relevant legislation provides that prisoners' participation is determined by the boards concerned; no application is required.

(B) In 1998 and 1999, 13 and 16 prisoners under the aforesaid schemes were recalled to prison during their supervision period respectively. Details are as follows :

Scheme	No. of supervisees recalled		Reasons of recall
	1998	1999	
(1) Release Under Supervision Scheme	0	0	N.A.
(2) Pre-release Employment Scheme	0	0	N.A.
(3) Post-release Supervision Scheme	13	16	Breach of supervision conditions, e.g. losing contact, failing to inform supervising officer about change of job and address, reconviction, etc.
(4) Conditional Release Scheme	0	0	N.A.
Total	13	16	

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB029

Question Serial No.

0443

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 151 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. &
Security Bureau title) :

Programme : (2) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Security

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In respect of the admission of Mainland residents born of Hong Kong residents and eligible for the right of abode in Hong Kong as well as the policies and procedures for the approval of applications from Mainland residents for admission into Hong Kong, will the Administration provide more resources in 2000-01 for holding discussions with the Mainland authorities to facilitate their admission within a reasonable period of time so as to protect their right of family reunion? If yes, how much time and money are the discussions expected to take?

Asked by : The Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

The Certificate of Entitlement Scheme has been operating smoothly to facilitate speedy and orderly entry of persons in the Mainland who enjoy right of abode under Article 24(2)(3). So far, over 61 000 such persons have entered Hong Kong under the Scheme.

Other Mainland residents who wish to come to Hong Kong for settlement may apply for a One-way Permit from the Mainland authorities. There is a daily quota of 150 under the One-way Permit Scheme. About 90 of the quota are set aside for these persons in accordance with a points system introduced in May 1997, while the remaining 60 are allocated to holders of Certificate of Entitlement.

There are well-established channels for regular discussions between the Government and the Mainland authorities to ensure the smooth operation of the two Schemes. No extra funding is necessary for this purpose; nor is there a need for any timetable for their completion since discussions are held as and when required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters RAYMOND WONG

Post Title Acting Secretary for Security

Date 16.3.2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB 030

Question Serial No.

0444

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 151 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. &
Security Bureau title) :

Programme : (2) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Security

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

The provision of \$4,430,000 under Subhead 110 (Honoraria for members of committees) is \$815,000 (22.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to the increased requirement of honoraria payable to the Chief Adjudicator and adjudicators of the Immigration Tribunal arising from an anticipated increase in the number of hearings in 2000-01, following the introduction of the appeal mechanism against the Director of Immigration's refusal to issue Certificate of Entitlement in November 1999. Will the Government inform this Committee of the anticipated increase in the number of hearings?

Asked by : The Hon. Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

The specific stipulations for appeals under Section 2AD of the Immigration Ordinance have been in force since January 2000. It is expected that in 2000-01, the Immigration Tribunal will handle about 370 appeal hearings against the Director of Immigration's refusal to issue Certificates of Entitlement or their copies. In this connection, it is necessary to increase the provision under Subhead 110 (Honoraria for members of committees) to cope with the consequential increase in remuneration payable to the Chief Adjudicator and adjudicators of the Immigration Tribunal.

Signature (signed)

Name in block letters Raymond Wong

Post Title Acting Secretary of Security

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB031

Question Serial No.

0445

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 151 Government Secretariate : Subhead(No. & title) :149 General Departmental
Security Bureau Expenses

Programme : (1) Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Security

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In the provision of \$25,364,000 under Subhead 149 General departmental expenses represents an increase of \$6,030,000 (31.2%) compared to the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to the full-year provision required for operating the Disciplined Services Sports and Recreation Club (DSSRC) which was completed in 1999-2000. Would the Administration advise the Council that why the operational expenses of the DSSRC will increase? What is the estimated number of people using the DSSRC and how much is the increase over last year?

Asked by : Ms Emily LAU

Reply :

Among the total increase of some \$6 million under Subhead 149 on general departmental expenses, \$5.6 million is due to the increased provision for the Disciplined Services Sports and Recreation Club (DSSRC).

The disciplined services departments occupied a joint sports centre at Kai Tak since 1978. The site was resumed in 1990 to make way for the expansion of the Kai Tak Airport. In mid-1997, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the reprovisioning of the facility by building a new DSSRC at So Kon Po. It will provide basic sports and recreational facilities for some 190,000 members (i.e. staff in the seven disciplined services departments and their families). DSSRC members will pay for the use of facilities.

Construction work of the DSSRC was completed in end 1999. For 1999-2000, a provision of \$3.3 million (as per the Revised Estimate) was set aside for the initial operation of the DSSRC, expected in the latter part of 1999-2000 then. For 2000-2001, we have provided for the full-year (i.e. 12 months) provision of about \$8.9 million for meeting the recurrent expenses of the DSSRC. The full operation of the DSSRC is now scheduled for mid-2000.

Signature : _____
Name in block letters: Mr Raymond WONG
Post Title : Acting Secretary for Security
Date : 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB036

Question Serial No.

0574

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : Please advise the respective number of prisoners/inmates attending the following level of education courses in 1998 and 1999 :

- (7) primary school;
- (8) junior secondary;
- (9) senior secondary;
- (10) matriculation;
- (11) post-secondary (Non-graduate); and
- (12) post-secondary (graduate)

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : The required information for 1998 and 1999 is set out below.

Level	Year 1998			Year 1999		
	No. of Prisoners (A)	No. of Inmates (B)	Total No. (A+B)	No. of Prisoners (C)	No. of Inmates (D)	Total No. (C+D)
(1) Primary	370	258	628	450	265	715
(2) Junior Secondary	786	555	1 341	962	602	1 564
(3) Senior Secondary	165	124	289	165	130	295
(4) Matriculation	133	53	186	142	58	200
(5) Tertiary (Non-degree)	12	3	15	16	4	20
(6) Tertiary (Degree)	55	1	56	62	2	64
Total	1 521	994	2 515	1 797	1 061	2 858

Inmates are defined as :

- (a) those detained in Detention Centre, Training Centres or Drug Addiction Treatment Centres;
- (b) those aged under 21 serving a term of prison sentence, and
- (c) those serving a term of prison sentence and subject to supervision under S.109AA of Criminal Procedure Ordinance, Cap. 221.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB037

Question Serial No.

0575

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : For Subhead 194 Prisoners' welfare for 2000-01, what are the respective provisions for lecturers' fees, the purchase of textbooks, stationery and teaching aids, payment of approved recreational activities and religious ministrations ?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : The respective provisions under Sub-head 194 Prisoners' Welfare in 2000-01 are :

	Types of Expenditure	Amount
1.	Part-time Lecturers' Remuneration	\$ 2,355,000
2.	Textbooks	\$ 621,000
3.	Stationery & Teaching Aids	\$ 663,000
4.	Approved Recreational Activities	\$ 619,000
5.	Religious Ministrations	\$ 646,000
	Total :	\$ 4,904,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB038

Question Serial No.

0576

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : Does the increased provision for 2000 include any additional installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)/intrusion detection system for the existing prisons or detention centres? If yes, what are the number of installations and what are the prisons or detention centres in question? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : The Honourable James TO Kun-sun

Reply : The increased provision for year 2000 includes the installation of CCTV/intrusion detection systems for four institutions with details as follows:-

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| (i) Shek Pik Prison | To replace and improve the CCTV and intrusion detection system. The improved system will comprise 239 cameras, including 77 additional ones. |
| (ii) Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre | To replace and improve the CCTV system. The improved system will comprise 61 cameras, including 22 additional ones. |
| (iii) Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre | To improve the CCTV system of the institution by installing 12 additional cameras. |

Bureau Serial No.

SB039

Question Serial No.

0577

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : What are the expected dates of completion and commencement of operation for the redevelopment of Stanley Prison area (phase II) and the redevelopment of Tai Lam Correctional Institution? Is there any difference against the original schedules?

Asked by : The Honourable James TO Kun-sun

Reply : The Stanley Prison Area Redevelopment Project Phase II which will provide 151 additional penal places will be completed and put into operation in September 2000. The estimated completion date is about 9 months behind schedule mainly due to inclement weather and minor alterations in design during construction phase.

The Redevelopment of Tai Lam Correctional Institution which will provide 260 additional penal places will be completed and put into operation in 2001. Progress of this project is on schedule.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB040

Question Serial No.

0578

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : One of the functions of the Rehabilitation Division of Correctional Services Department (CSD) is to provide education/vocational training for prisoners to enhance their opportunity of gainful employment on release. What is the employment situation of discharged prisoners in 1999? What are the resources involved in providing this service? And for 2000, what plans does the Administration have in helping prisoners re-integrate into society after release? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply : In 1999-2000, about 95% of discharged offenders under the Department's statutory supervision had secured gainful employment upon release. The remaining 5% were housewives, disabled persons and elderly persons. No statistics are kept for discharged offenders who were not put under any of the Department's supervision schemes.

In 1999-2000, about \$48m was spent on education and vocational training for offenders. In addition, CSD had also secured sponsorship from various agencies to conduct vocational training, e.g. the Construction Industry Training Authority provided courses to train prisoners to take up employment in the construction industry.

For 2000-01, the main new measures in helping offenders' re-integration into society and the financial implications are :

Main New Measures	Resources earmarked in 2000-01
(a) introducing new curriculum of education to facilitate young offenders' re-integration into mainstream schools or technical institutes	nil (absorbed by existing resources)
(b) providing multi-media learning centres for young offenders at Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution and Lai Sun Correctional Institution	about \$3.5m
(c) upgrading vocational training facilities and courses to help young offenders obtain City & Guilds or Pitman qualifications	about \$0.9m

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB041

Question Serial No.

0579

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : For 2000, what concrete plans does the Administration have in appealing to the public to lend more support to rehabilitated offenders? What is the estimated expenditure involved? Has the Administration assessed the effectiveness of the publicity programmes in the past?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Public acceptance and support is important for rehabilitated offenders' re-integration into society; helping them re-integrate is helping to reduce crime.

The "Opportunities for Rehabilitated Offenders" publicity campaign was launched in October 1999 and will continue until mid April 2000. Major activities include a TV variety show with the theme "Community Support for Rehabilitated Offenders", poster displays, Announcement of Public Interest broadcasts and round-the-territory exhibitions. On completion of the activities in April 2000, the Correctional Services Department will review the effectiveness of the campaign with a view to mapping out further publicity strategies.

Concrete publicity plans for 2000-01 to appeal for public support for rehabilitated offenders and the estimated expenditure are being finalised. \$1m has initially been reserved through internal savings for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB042

Question Serial No.

0580

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In 1999, there was an upward trend in respect of the number of concerted acts of indiscipline over 1998. Has the Administration assessed the reasons for this? Other than improving the perimeters of institutions to strengthen security, did the authorities concerned consider allotting additional provision for implementing other measures or installing facilities, etc. to help reduce prisoners' chance of escape or committing acts of indiscipline?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The number of incidents of concerted acts of indiscipline are 68 in 1997, 59 in 1998, and 70 in 1999. While the figures do not reveal an obvious upward trend, they may suggest a possible relationship between the penal population or the prison overcrowding situation and the number of concerted acts of indiscipline as follows :

Year	Average Prison Population (Occupancy Rate-%)	Number of Concerted Acts of Indiscipline
1997	10 452 (122)	68
1998	10 066 (115)	59
1999	10 364 (119)	70

Notwithstanding the above, the opening of Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution with 424 places in September 1999 has helped to alleviate the problem of overcrowding to some extent. The on-going redevelopment projects in Stanley Prison and Tai Lam Correctional Institution also aim to further alleviate the problem by adding 411 extra places by 2001. On-going efforts are also made to reshuffle the penal population amongst institutions to maximise the utilisation of existing penal accommodation.

On measures to help reduce prisoners' chance of escape or committing acts of indiscipline, staff of the Correctional Services Department are trained and constantly reminded to watch out for any early signs of conflict amongst prisoners. The purpose is to assist them in resolving their conflicts constructively, promoting goodwill amongst them and enhancing mutual acceptance. Thematic training programmes on security are also organised to forestall prisoners' escape attempts.

To reduce the risks of escape, chain-link fence and barbed-wire coil installed around the perimeter of medium and minimum security institutions are being replaced by stainless, expanded metal mesh and steel razor-tape coil which are proven to be more effective in preventing climbing and tampering.

In addition to the enhancement of perimeter security, a range of measures are being considered to upgrade the searching capacity and enhance the supervision of prisoners. These include the introduction of advanced technologies for vehicle searching, an intruder alarm system in Hei Ling Correctional Institution, surprise visits to outside work groups and the enhancing of the intelligence network. Provision has also been made in 2000-01 for the improvement of existing Closed Circuit Television and intrusion detection system in four institutions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB043

Question Serial No.

0581

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : Regarding the provision under Subhead 700 General other non-recurrent expenditure "Hire of consultancy to review education programmes for correctional institutions", could the Administration advise us the content of the plan as well as the details of expenses for 1999-2000?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : Two consultancies were commissioned in October 1999 with a view to completing the following projects in 2000-01 :

- a) Project A to review the development needs of young offenders and design a new self and social development course to facilitate their smooth re-integration into society; and
- b) Project B to review the training needs of teaching staff in the Correctional Services Department and provide a tailor-made training course to enhance and update their professional skills.

Expenses are/will be :

Project	1999-2000	2000-01	Total
A	\$320,000	\$230,000	\$550,000
B	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000
	\$570,000	\$380,000	\$950,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB056

Question Serial No.

0582

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 30 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

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

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

This year, there has been \$950,000 included in the approved commitments and estimated 1999-2000 expenditures for various consultations by just Correctional Services 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	362	950

Asked by : The Honourable Christine LOH

Reply : Contracting out services to achieve savings is not the objective of this exercise. The consultancy studies at issue aim at enhancing the education programmes for young offenders. With the expertise input from the consultants, a new self and social development course will be designed to meet the special needs of young offenders and a special teacher training project will be conducted to enhance the professional skills of existing departmental staff. Such expertise is not readily available within the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K NG

Post Title _____ Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB089

Question Serial No.

0640

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 Security

Question : Why does the number of exercises and drills on nuclear safety drop sharply from 7 in 1999 to an estimated of 4 in 2000?

Asked by : The Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Electrical & Mechanical Services Department participated in more exercises in 1999 arranged by the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau and Security Bureau to prepare for the rollover to the year 2000; also in exercises arranged by the Hong Kong Observatory to prepare for the Hong Kong side's participation in the unannounced exercise conducted by the Guangdong Authority. Following the successful rollover to the year 2000 and the completion of the unannounced exercise with the Guangdong side at the end of February, the estimated number of exercises and drills will be reverted to the normal level of four in year 2000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Date 15 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB052

Question Serial No.

0722

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

Head/ Subhead : 151 – Government Secretariat : Security Bureau

Programme : (1) Internal Security

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Security

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

What is the expenditure of the Secretariat of the Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions for the last financial year? What is the estimated expenditure for this financial year? Is the operation cost for the Secretariat to work on Sundays and public holidays to facilitate public appeals included in the provision?

Asked by : The Hon. Cyd Ho Sau-lan

Reply : The secretariat support of the Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions (the Board) is provided by a Senior Executive Officer of the Security Bureau who also undertakes other responsibilities in the Bureau. The expenditure for the Board is fully covered within the overall provision for Security Bureau in the draft estimates of expenditure 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters RAYMOND WONG

Post Title Acting Secretary for Security

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB057

Question Serial No.

0792

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (c) As at the end of 1999, how many applications for the "Admission of Talents Scheme" were received by the authorities concerned? What are the number of staff and the expenditure involved in handling the relevant applications respectively?
- (d) How many applications have passed through the assessment process successfully and received approval for coming to Hong Kong? Can the time schedule from the submission of applications to the successful arrival of the applicants be tabulated in details?

Asked by : The Honourable David CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

- (c) Between the implementation date of the Admission of Talents Scheme on 17 December 1999 and end of 1999, we received 2 applications. Till end February 2000, a cumulative total of 69 applications were received. To enable the timely processing of applications under the Scheme, approximately \$4.4 million has been assigned for the creation of 10 additional posts.
- (d) As at the end of February 2000, 4 applications were approved. All the 4 successful applicants have arrived in Hong Kong. It took about 17 to 21 days to complete processing the applications, upon receipt of all the necessary documents from them. It took about another 21 days for the applicants to enter Hong Kong after their entry permits were collected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title _____ Director of Immigration

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB058

Question Serial No.

0793

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (c) The actual number of APEC Business Travel Card – local applications dropped 88% to 64 in 1999 from 543 in 1998. The estimate for 2000 is 900, which is 1306% higher than the actual in 1999. A similar situation also exists for APEC Business Travel Card – referral applications, where there was a drop of 63.2% in 1999, but the estimate for 2000 is 4 times that of 1999.

Can the government explain why the estimate for 2000 is so high, although there was a big drop in 1999?

- (d) The actual number of HKSAR Travel Pass received dropped from 1 828 in 1998 by 74% to 475 in 1999 and it is estimated that the number in 2000 will be 550 only, which is just 15% higher than 475 in 1999. What accounts for such drop?

Asked by : The Honourable Howard YOUNG

Reply :

- (c) New Zealand and Malaysia have joined the APEC Business Travel Card Scheme a few months ago with Thailand expressing interest to join recently. This is likely to bring the total number of participating economies to eight, instead of the original five (Australia; Chile; Hong Kong, China; Korea and the Philippines). Furthermore, the sponsorship requirement of trade-related organisation has been removed. We therefore expect that the number of local applications and referral applications from overseas would increase in 2000.

- (d) The drop in the number of Travel Pass applications was possibly due to the economic ebb in the past years. A conservative approach has been adopted in estimating the expected workload in 2000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB059

Question Serial No.

0794

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Why is it that the Immigration Department has adjusted downward the work target for processing "70% of entry visa applications within 6 weeks upon receipt of supporting documents"?

Asked by : The Honourable CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Notwithstanding the performance pledge to complete processing 70% of entry visa applications within 6 weeks upon receipt of supporting documents, we exceeded the pledge by completing 90.9% of such applications in 1999. This was however achieved through working considerable overtime. Our plan of completing processing 85% of all entry visa applications within the pledged time has been set taking into account our resources available. This planned figure exceeds our current performance pledge of 70%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB060

Question Serial No.

0795

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

According to the key performance measures in respect of control upon entry, all the control points were able to achieve the target. In terms of travelling by land, the percentage of passengers cleared within 30-minute waiting time has shown a slight improvement in 1999 (98.5%).

- Would the Administration inform this Council the percentage of vehicles/passengers cleared within 30-minute waiting time of each land border control point at Lo Wu, Hung Hom, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok and Lok Ma Chau?
- Apart from implementing the Contra-flow Scheme, will the Administration consider allocating resources to implement new measures to cope with the continuously increasing demand for cross-boundary passenger traffic at the busiest land passenger crossing point – Lo Wu?
- Will it be possible to further extend the opening hours of land border control points with existing resource allocation?

Asked by : The Honourable Howard YOUNG

Reply :

(4) Percentage of passengers cleared within 30-minute waiting time in 1998 and 1999 at land border control points is as follows :-

	Lo Wu	Hung Hom	Lok Ma Chau	Man Kam To	Sha Tau Kok
1998	96.6%	100%	96.61%	100%	100%
1999	96.9%	99.51%	96.20%	100%	100%

Percentage of vehicles cleared within 30-minute waiting time in 1998 and 1999 at land border control points is as follows :-

	Lok Ma Chau	Man Kam To	Sha Tau Kok
1998	94.54%	84.15%	100%
1999	90.33%	84.92%	98.45%

- (5) The Contra-flow Scheme has been introduced as a short-term measure to cope with the increasing demand of passenger traffic at Lo Wu. In the longer term, KCRC will construct a rail spur line from Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau where a new land boundary control point for rail passengers will be set up in 2004. It is expected that the new facilities will alleviate the congestion at Lo Wu.
- (6) The existing resources of the boundary control points are only sufficient to cater for the current opening hours of the land boundary control point.

In considering further extension of the opening hours, factors such as demand, the availability of connecting public transport, parallel arrangements by the Mainland will have to be considered.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB061

Question Serial No.

0796

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (6) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

The actual number of "Requests for assistance by Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong" increased 76.5% to 1 006 in 1999. Apart from 512 requests received during the Taiwan earthquake in September 1999, would the Administration inform this Council the nature and breakdown of the remaining requests?

Asked by : The Honourable Howard YOUNG

Reply :

The nature and breakdown of the other requests (1 006 - 512 = 494) for assistance are as follows :

Imprisoned or detained	237	(159 overseas, 78 in the Mainland)
Loss of travel documents	91	
Accidents	46	
Deaths	17	
Missing persons	12	
Miscellaneous	91	
(financial assistance, hospitalization, etc)		
Total	494	

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB 053

Question Serial No.

0930

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

Head : 121 Independent Police Complaints Council Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer : Secretary, Independent Police Complaints Council

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In 2000-01, the Government will implement the second three-year publicity programme. What are the details of the programme and why does it take three years to complete? Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the last publicity programme? When is the new programme expected to commence and what is the estimated expenditure for it?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Based on the recommendations arising from the independent review and comparative study on police complaints systems conducted in 1996, the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) started a three-year publicity programme in 1997/98. During the three-year period from 1997-98 to 1999-2000, the IPCC had organized a number of publicity activities to enhance public awareness and understanding of the police complaints system in general and of the IPCC in particular. These included seminars for Provisional District Board/District Fight Crime Committee Members, broadcast of TV and Radio Announcements in Public Interest, launching of the IPCC homepage, talks at tertiary institutions and secondary schools and placing of advertisements on public transport. The programme had helped to publicize the independent image and

monitoring role of the IPCC to all walks of life.

The IPCC considers it important to keep up the momentum built up as a result of the first three-year publicity programme. A further three-year programme commencing 2000-01 is therefore required to sustain and reinforce public understanding of the work of the IPCC, in particular among the younger generation. An additional commitment of \$3 million is sought for the purpose. The IPCC plans to organize a public opinion survey to assess the public's understanding of the work and role of the IPCC, a seminar on the police complaints system and a series of TV episodes in 2000-01. The publicity activities to be organized in 2001-02 and 2002-03 will be worked out by the IPCC nearer the time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs Annie LEUNG

Post Title Secretary, Independent Police
Complaints Council

Date 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB062

Question Serial No.

0931

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

After the construction of ten additional kiosks at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point in December last year, what will be the projected increase in workload of the Department concerned? Has the growth of cross-boundary vehicular traffic been assessed? And will the above changes affect the estimates of expenditure for the new financial year?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The ten additional kiosks at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point have been put into use since 28 December 1999, with 90 new posts earmarked to man them. The processing capacity of the crossing has increased from 19 000 vehicles to about 32 000 vehicles per day. The Department would incur \$20.498 million in the new financial year to operate these ten additional kiosks.

The additional kiosks have brought relief to the control point as well as traffic on its approach roads. The daily average vehicular traffic for Lok Ma Chau in January 2000 was 20 038. According to the latest forecast, the demand will continue to increase at an annual growth rate of about 9%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB063

Question Serial No.

0932

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

What specific plan does the Government have to strengthen front-line control at all control points? How effective was the work enforced in the past? Will the Government consider increasing manpower to support the work concerned in the new financial year? If not, why not?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Apart from facilitating the travel of bona-fide tourists, business visitors and local residents, the immigration control points are responsible for maintaining immigration control by denying the entry of undesirables including doubtful visitors, fraudulent travel document users, drug smugglers and other criminals.

Considerable efforts and resources are committed to intelligence collection and analysis and to providing on-the-job training to front-line officers to enhance their expertise in immigration clearance work. Regular briefings are given to keep them abreast of the recent trends of undesirable visitors and the modus operandi employed by the forgers. Different types of advanced equipment have been acquired to assist in detecting forged travel documents. Special operations and surveillance exercises are also conducted at various locations such as the transit lounge, transfer areas and departure gates to counter migrant trafficking and entry of persons for illicit purposes. In addition, there is effective co-operation amongst local law-enforcement agencies as well as with Mainland and overseas authorities in combating immigration-related illicit activities.

In 1999, a total of 16 921 persons were refused entry and 3 298 forged travel documents were seized at control points.

The effectiveness of immigration control is being closely monitored. Staff resources will continue to be deployed flexibly within the Department to reinforce the immigration control points whenever necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB065

Question Serial No.

1010

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

How many cases of undesirable persons who are suspected to pose a threat to the security, prosperity and well-being of Hong Kong have been handled by the authorities concerned in the past three financial years? What are the outcome of the investigation of these cases? How many persons have therefore been refused entry by the Immigration Department? Among these people who have been refused entry, how many have lodged appeals? How many appeal cases have been successful? What are the staff manpower and other resources involved in handling these appeals?

Asked by : The Honourable Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

Statistics on persons subjected to secondary examinations upon arrival at control points and undesirables refused permission to land for the past three financial years are set out below -

Year	No. of Persons subject to Secondary Examination	Undesirables Refused Landing
1997/98	178 157	9 791
1998/99	204 936	10 550
1999/2000 (Up to 29 February)	214 163	9 416

During the three financial years, 1 (97/98), 3 (98/99) and 1 (99/2000) appeals were lodged against the Director of Immigration's decision to refuse entry pursuant to section 53 of the Immigration Ordinance, Cap. 115. The first 4 appeals were rejected by the Chief Executive in Council and the remaining one will be placed before the Chief Executive in Council for a decision in April 2000.

The resources incurred for handling appeals vary from case to case but in view of the small number, the resources required are not substantial.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB066

Question Serial No

1011

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : All Programmes

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Which part of the estimates has been allocated by the authorities concerned in investigating complaints against the staff members of the Immigration Department? Please provide the details and the amount of provision involved. How much has the expenditure in this aspect of work been increased or decreased when compared with the estimates for the previous financial year?

Asked by : The Honourable Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

The Customer Services Unit set up under the Management Audit Division of the Administration and Planning Branch of the Immigration Department handles complaints against the immigration service from the public. All complaints received will be fully investigated. The Complaints Review Working Party reviews and analyzes all investigated complaints with a view to making recommendations on appropriate follow-up action. The Working Party is headed by an Assistant Director of the Department. The salary cost incurred and related departmental expenses amount to \$2.43 million in 1999-2000. There is no change in provision when compared with last financial year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB067

Question Serial No.

1012

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (d) Would the authorities concerned reserve funds for the installation of video-recording facilities? If yes, what is the amount of funds allocated for implementing the scheme? Is the amount enough for the installation of video-recording facilities at all control points? Also, is there appropriate staff manpower for the taking of statements so as to protect the staff of the Immigration Department and the people under suspicion, particularly those who are less self-protective such as the children, the elderly and those people who are vulnerable to discrimination?
- (e) Would the authorities concerned reserve funds for the cultural sensitivity training in preventing the act and attitude of racial discrimination? If yes, what is the training scheme and the estimated expenditure for it? If not, would resources be allocated for the arrangement of related training from the existing estimated expenditure?
- (f) Would the authorities concerned reserve funds specially for the supervision of front-line officers who are responsible for the arrest, detention and inquiry of suspects so as to safeguard the legitimate interests of the suspects?

Asked by : The Honourable Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

- (b) Immigration Department has currently 2 Video Interview Rooms (VIR) located at the Immigration Headquarters for interviewing suspected immigration offenders. Funds have been allocated for the installation of another 5 VIRs, i.e. 2 at the Immigration Headquarters, 2 at the Immigration Task Force at Ma Tau Kok Government Offices and 1 at the Airport. All 5 VIRs will be put into operation within this year.

The average equipment cost of a VIR is \$125,000.

Funds have been reserved for installing 2 more VIRs at the Airport subject to availability of accommodation.

Immigration Department has sufficient trained staff to handle the expected increase in demand for video taped recording interviews. The training is an ongoing exercise.

Video recording of interviews is conducted on suspects of more serious offences, such as suspects involved in forgery syndicates. We do not consider it cost-effective to video-tape interviews on all suspects.

- (b) All immigration staff are trained to treat all persons fairly and equally without regard to race or gender. To this end, the induction and in-service training courses have incorporated modules on the relevant statutory provisions. There is no plan to make additional provisions for these modules.
- (d) Arrangements are in place to safeguard the legitimate interests of subjects of arrest, detention and inquiry. To strengthen supervision of front-line officers in handling these subjects, one Senior Immigration Officer has been re-deployed to the investigation section of the Airport control point since early March 2000. Senior officers in the investigation sections in other control points will conduct more frequent spot checks on the field to enhance supervision. The Management Audit Division has stepped up spot checks and documentary checks to ensure that the investigation officers at front-line strictly comply with the relevant procedures to protect the rights of the persons under immigration custody.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

How many times have the authorities concerned taken action against syndicates arranging the entry of underpaid foreign domestic helpers in the past three financial years? What actions have been taken? How many cases have been investigated? How many prosecutions have been instituted? What was the percentage of successful prosecutions? What proactive actions have been planned in the financial year 2000-2001? In addition, have prosecutions been instituted against employers who breached contracts signed with the foreign domestic helpers, and whose behaviour has contravened the immigration conditions and/or criminal law over the past three financial years?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

Underpayment of wage is an offence under the Employment Ordinance within the purview of the Labour Department. The Immigration Department is equally concerned about the illegal activities of those unscrupulous employment agencies in arranging the entry of FDHs with payment less than the minimum allowable wage. Last year, the Immigration Department conducted a joint operation with the Labour Department and the ICAC against a syndicate involving in arranging the entry of underpaid FDHs. 7 employment agencies were raided. 8 licensees/employees of the targeted employment agencies and 31 FDHs were invited to Immigration offices for enquiries. Prosecution against their employers or employment agencies could not be instituted because the FDHs were not willing to testify against them.

In the coming financial year, the following proactive measures will be taken to tackle the problem of foreign domestic helpers entering into false contracts:

- (a) To continue to tighten up the screening procedures of entry visa application with a view to screening out dishonest applications at the outset.
- (b) To enhance intelligence collection on doubtful employment agencies.
- (c) To step up enforcement operations.

No. of prosecutions instituted against the employers in the past three years are as follows:

		1997	1998	1999
Employers involved in false contracts	Prosecution	5	24	39*
	Conviction	5	21	20
	Conviction rate	100%	88%	51%
Employers involved in illegal deployment/employment of FDHs	Prosecution	101	100	61
	Conviction	97	94	49
	Conviction rate	96%	94%	80%

* including 15 cases pending trial. The number of convictions may increase after completion of these cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB094

Question Serial No.

1101

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

As regards the improvement measures proposed by the Inter-departmental Working Group on the Law Reform Commission Report on Arrest, what measures have the authorities concerned taken in the past three financial years? What measures will be taken in this financial year?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

In the past three financial years, the Immigration Department has taken the following 17 items of improvement measures as proposed by the Inter-departmental Working Group on the Law Reform Commission Report on Arrest. All these items do not require legislative amendments and have been implemented by administrative means:-

- (18) Information on powers and procedures relating to stop, search, detention and arrest are published.
- (19) Information to be made available to Immigration Officer during an identity check under the Immigration Ordinance to be restricted to certain relevant information.
- (20) Immigration Officers should state in layman terms the reasons for the stop and search to the person affected.
- (21) Statistics and information on stops and searches are published for public scrutiny.
- (22) Access to special procedure material should not be subject to an inter partes application made to a judge.
- (23) The person arrested should be informed that he is under arrest and of the

ground for the arrest.

- (24) Persons voluntarily attending at Immigration office to assist with an investigation shall be entitled to leave at will and shall be informed at once that he is under arrest if a decision is taken to prevent him from leaving at will.
- (25) The person arrested should be taken to a nearest police station as soon as practicable. Other law enforcement agencies may convey their arrested persons to their nearest offices instead of a police station.
- (26) The period of detention for each arrest should be calculated from the time a person was arrested for an offence originally, even if the same person is arrested for some other offences during the detention period.
- (27) "Custody Officers" and "Review Officers" are to be appointed in Immigration office to ensure that those in detention are treated properly and to carry out review of the need for further detention.
- (28) A person who is detained after charge should be taken before the court as soon as practicable, and in any event no later than the first sitting of a court after the person has been charged.
- (29) Statistics on detention would be made available upon request.
- (30) "Custody Officer" will be authorised to search a detained person to ascertain and record everything the person has with him.
- (31) Additional safeguards to children and young persons under arrest have been adopted.
- (32) Tape-recording and video-taping of interviews have been implemented.
- (33) The existing practice of making available legal aid to persons charged with a criminal offence should continue.
- (34) No need to provide for the right to witness destruction of finger-prints or samples taken. It would be sufficient to return them to the person from whom the finger-prints or samples are taken.

The Security Bureau will continue to co-ordinate the implementation of other recommended improvement measures in this financial year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB095

Question Serial No.

1102

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the numbers of deportation orders made by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or the Governor of Hong Kong in accordance with Section 20(1)(a) and 20(1)(b) of the Immigration Ordinance respectively over the past three financial years? How many objections lodged in accordance with Section 53(1) of the Immigration Ordinance have altogether been received in the past three financial years? Of these objections, how many succeeded in doing so? Have the authorities concerned made any public performance pledge or internal Code of Practice as regards the time limit in handling this kind of objections? How many cases do comply with this pledge and/or Code of Practice? It is the usual practice of the Government not to inform the person who may be aggrieved of this channel for lodging objections. Does the Government, on seeing that there are not enough resources to handle appeals for this kind of objections, resort to maintaining such a usual practice? In case this channel of lodging appeals is widely publicized, how many cases of objections would the Government estimate? What are the additional resources needed for handling these objections?

Asked by : The Honourable Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

Over the past three financial years, no deportation orders were made under section 20(1)(b) of the Immigration Ordinance. The number of deportation orders made under section 20(1)(a) of the Immigration Ordinance are:

97/98	98/99	99/2000
549	544	657

The number of objections lodged in accordance with section 53(1) of the Immigration Ordinance are :

97/98	98/99	99/2000
5	1	0

Of these objections, one case in 97/98 was successful.

There is no public performance pledge or Code of Practice as regards the time limit in handling such objections. It is the general practice of the department to process the case immediately upon receiving an objection and to complete such processing as soon as practicable.

For a person whom the Administration is considering his deportation under section 20(1)(a) of the Immigration Ordinance, a "Notice of Consideration of Deportation" is served upon such person notifying him, among other things, such intention, its reasons, the effect of a deportation order, and inviting such person and his family members to make representations if he/they so wish. Statistics showed that about 30% of the potential deportees had made such representations. A potential deportee is normally serving an imprisonment sentence in jail when the deportation enquiries are made. His rights of access to relatives and lawyers are safeguarded by the relevant prison rules.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB090

Question Serial No.

1118

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 151 **Subhead (No. & title):**

Programme: (1) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Security

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question: Would the Government please advise this Council whether the Chief Executive has completed determination of the minimum terms of imprisonment for the young offenders detained until Her Majesty's pleasure be known? If yes, has the Security Bureau allocated additional resources to ensure that this kind of prisoners will receive a one-third sentence remission for good conduct as other prisoners will, so that they need not complete the entire minimum terms before they can have their cases reviewed and be released?

Asked by: The Hon. Emily Lau

Reply: In accordance with section 67C of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, the Chief Executive had determined the minimum terms of imprisonment for the 15 prisoners detained at Executive discretion (an indeterminate sentence, formerly known as "detention until Her Majesty's pleasure is known"). Such a minimum term is the punitive part of the sentence that the prisoner has to serve in relation to the offence committed. It is not a determinate sentence. Rule 69 of the Prison Rules which provides for sentence remission only applies to determinate sentences and therefore does not apply to the minimum terms at issue.

In accordance with section 11(3) of the Long-term Prison Sentences Review Ordinance (“the Ordinance”), the Long-term Prison Sentences Review Board (“the Board”) had also reviewed the indeterminate sentences of these prisoners following the Chief Executive's decision on the minimum terms. The Board will continue to review the sentences every two years as required under the Ordinance. Furthermore, six months before the expiry of the minimum term, the Board will conduct another review and according to section 15(1)(a)(ii) of the Ordinance, may make a recommendation to the Chief Executive to substitute a prisoner’s indeterminate sentence with a determinate sentence. To date, one of the 15 above-mentioned prisoners has been granted a determinate sentence by the Chief Executive. Sentence remission as provided under Rule 69 of the Prison Rules would therefore apply with regard to the determinate sentence now being served by that prisoner.

In respect of an indeterminate sentence or a determinate sentence converted from an indeterminate sentence, the Board is required to conduct regular reviews and is empowered to order early release of a prisoner in certain circumstances. However, according to section 12(2) of the Ordinance, the Board is not authorized to order a prisoner's early release before any minimum term applicable to the prisoner has been served.

The Security Bureau and the Correctional Services Department have ensured that appropriate mechanism and adequate resources are in place to provide prisoners with suitable counselling services and rehabilitation programmes, as well as regular reviews of their sentences as required under the law. No additional resource is provided for such purposes in 2000-01.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mr Raymond WONG

Post Title Acting Secretary for Security

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB096

Question Serial No.

1124

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control After Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

(C) It states that the Immigration Department will take proactive actions against syndicates arranging the entry of underpaid foreign domestic helpers. Please advise :

6. How many syndicates were discovered last year?
7. How many persons have been prosecuted under the syndicates, of which how many are employers and foreign domestic helpers respectively?
8. What are these proactive actions?
9. How many officers are now responsible to investigate these syndicates and will the Immigration Department consider increasing the number of personnel in tackling this problem?
10. Will the Immigration Department consider interviewing every prospective employer to ensure there is a genuine offer?

(D) It states that the Immigration Department will take proactive actions against the engagement of foreign domestic helpers in non-domestic jobs. Please advise :

4. What are these proactive actions? Will the Immigration Department step up the enforcement actions against employers for asking domestic helpers performing non-domestic jobs in 1999-2000?
5. How many foreign domestic helpers have been prosecuted for performing non-domestic jobs in 1999-2000?
6. How many employers have been prosecuted for asking foreign domestic helpers to perform non-domestic jobs in 1999-2000?

Asked by : The Honourable Christine LOH

Reply :

- (A) 1. & 2. Underpayment of wage is an offence under the Employment Ordinance. The Immigration Department is concerned about the illegal activities of those unscrupulous employment agencies in arranging the entry of FDHs with payment less than the minimum allowable wage. Last year, the Immigration Department conducted a joint operation with the Labour Department and the ICAC against a syndicate involving in arranging the entry of underpaid FDHs. 7 employment agencies were raided. 8 licensees/employees of the targeted employment agencies and 31 FDHs were invited to Immigration offices for enquiries. As a result, 4 FDHs were prosecuted and convicted for making false representation and the others were released after enquiries due to insufficient evidence. Prosecution against their employers or other persons intercepted could not be instituted as the FDHs were not willing to testify against them.
3. In the coming financial year, the following proactive measures will be taken to tackle the problem of foreign domestic helpers entering into false contracts:
- (a) To continue to tighten up the screening procedures of entry visa application with a view to screening out dishonest applications at the outset.
 - (b) To enhance intelligence collection on doubtful employment agencies.
 - (c) To step up enforcement operations.
4. At present, 17 officers under the establishment of Investigation Division are deployed to investigate cases concerning illegal employment of foreign domestic helpers, including false contract syndicates. At present, Immigration Department has no plan to increase the staff establishment. Internal deployment of staff will be effected should circumstances justify.
5. Owing to the large volume of applications processed (about 5 000 per month), it is not possible to interview all prospective employers of foreign domestic helpers. Employers will only be called for interview to clarify irregularities. However, we will conduct internal record checks for previous adverse records as well as random checks to verify information supplied by employers.

- (B) 1. The following measures will be taken to combat the illegal employment of foreign domestic helpers to perform non-domestic duties in the coming year:-
- (a) To tighten up the screening procedures of entry visa application with a view to screening out dishonest applications at the outset.
 - (b) To enhance intelligence collection and step up enforcement operations against doubtful employment agencies.
 - (c) To step up investigation and prosecution actions against foreign domestic helpers taking up part-time work and other unauthorised work and also their employers who aid or abet in the process.
 - (d) To enhance publicity to drive home the message that hiring illegal workers is a criminal offence and encourage members of the public to report illegal employment by using the Immigration Department hotline or fax line.
 - (e) To continue with existing measures including issuing 'W' prefix identity card to FDHs, bringing cases to higher courts for review where the sentence is manifestly inadequate, reminding employers of the need to report to Immigration Department within seven days of termination of an FDH contract and the legal requirement to inspect travel documents of non-HKPR job seekers, etc.
2. & 3. In 1999, 141 foreign domestic helpers were prosecuted for taking up unapproved employment and 61 employers were prosecuted for aiding and abetting foreign domestic helpers to take up unapproved employment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB097

Question Serial No.

1162

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Will the authorities concerned inform us whether children under the age of 18 belonging to different age groups who have made illegal entry or have been suspected of entering Hong Kong illegally be detained after being arrested? Will they be allowed to be released on bail? What kind of detention facilities will be arranged for them in accordance with the ages and sex? When young children are arrested together with their fathers or/and mothers, is there any special measure in place to prevent these young children from being separated from their arrested fathers or/and mothers? If yes, how much funds will be allocated to implement this measure? If not, will funds be reserved for the implementation of this special measure? In the past three financial years, how long is the period of detention for the five longest children detainees aged under 7 and the five longest children detainees between the ages of 7 and 14 who have made illegal entry or have been suspected of entering Hong Kong illegally?

Asked by : The Honourable Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply :

Illegal immigrants intercepted are subject to detention pending repatriation. Consideration is given to release on recognizance if immediate repatriation cannot be arranged. However, if arrested minor illegal immigrants have no relatives in Hong Kong they will be detained pending removal to their place of origin.

Schedule 2 of the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order sets out the designated places of detention for minor illegal immigrants. According to their age and sex, they will usually be placed under the care of the following three detention centres :

Place of Detention	Criteria on age and sex
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The Chuk Yuen Children's Reception Center	all minors under the age of 8
Ma Tau Wai Girls' Home	female minors between 8 - 17
Pui Chi Boys' Home	male minors between 8 - 17

When a minor illegal immigrant is intercepted together with his father and/or mother, the minor illegal immigrant will usually be detained together with his father/mother taking into consideration of the safety, family unity and other considerations in the best interest of the minor. Usually, they will be detained in the Victoria Immigration Center pending repatriation. No additional funding is required under this arrangement.

Under normal circumstances, the detention period for minor illegal immigrants pending repatriation would not exceed 4 days. However, the detention period for illegal immigrants (including minors) from Vietnam is usually longer because of the need to confirm their identity and obtain re-entry clearance from Vietnam Government. Cases of minor illegal immigrants with longest detention period in the past three financial years are as follows :

(a) For minor under 7 :

4 months (1), 1.5 months (1) and 12 days (3).

(b) For minor between 7 - 14 :

5.5 months (1) ; 5 month (1) ; 2.5 months (1) and 1.5 months (2)

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB098

Question Serial No.

1275

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

What are the manpower resources needed for handling the Admission of Talents Scheme?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Ten posts will be needed in 2000-01 for the Immigration Department to operate the Admission of Talents Scheme. The posts comprise 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 1 Senior Immigration Officer, 6 Immigration Officers, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB099

Question Serial No.

1276

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

Head 70 Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

In the Estimates, the Government has anticipated a substantial increase in the number of persons who will be repatriated and the number of persons who will be prosecuted for breaching the Immigration Ordinance in 2000. Will the Government explain the reasons for it? Is it necessary to increase manpower to handle the above work?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The increase in prosecutions of immigration offenders is consistent with the upward trend observed in recent years. As regards the increase in the number of persons repatriated, provision is made as more mainland overstayers may be repatriated when the right of abode litigations are concluded. Staff resources will be deployed flexibly within the Department to handle the work whenever necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB100

Question Serial No.

1277

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

As regards the work against the engagement of foreign domestic helpers in non-domestic jobs, what actions have been taken in the past and how effective were they? What measures will be taken by the Government to step up the enforcement actions in 2000?

Asked by : The Honourable LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Immigration Department is committed to combating the problem of illegal employment of foreign domestic helpers. In the past years as well as the coming year, the following proactive measures have been and will continue to be taken: -

- (a) To tighten up the screening procedures of entry visa application with a view to screen out dishonest applications at the outset.
- (b) To enhance intelligence collection and step up enforcement actions against doubtful employment agencies.
- (c) To step up investigation and prosecution actions against foreign domestic helpers taking up part-time work and other unauthorised work and also their employers who aid or abet in the process.
- (d) To enhance publicity to drive home the message that hiring illegal workers is a criminal offence and

- (e) To continue with existing measures including issuing 'w' prefix identity card to foreign domestic helpers, bring cases to higher courts for review where the sentence is manifestly inadequate, reminding employers of the need to report to Immigration Department within seven days of termination of an foreign domestic helper contract and the legal requirement to inspect travel documents of non-HKPR job-seekers, etc.

These measures have been effective in containing the problem of foreign domestic helper taking illegal work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB101

Question Serial No.

1293

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

In respect of control upon entry,

- (c) concerning the clearance of passengers travelling by air within 15-minute waiting time, why is it that the performance target has dropped from 98.1% in 1999 to 92% in the coming year?
- (d) after the construction of ten additional kiosks at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point in December 1999, what is the percentage increase in the number of posts? What will be the implications on work done subsequent to the deletion of 49 posts in the coming year?

Asked by : The Honourable Gary CHENG Kai-nam

Reply :

- (b) The performance pledge for passenger clearance at the Airport Control Point was revised in October 1998 after the commissioning of the airport at Chek Lap Kok. The enhanced performance standard is to clear 92% of travellers within 15-minute waiting time instead of 30 minutes. This was the performance pledge for 1999.

In 1999, the Airport Control Point was able to clear 98.1% of the arriving and departing passengers within 15 minutes. The planned achievement of 92% for 2000 is a continuation of the performance pledge last year.

- (b) A total of 90 new posts at various ranks have been earmarked for manning the 10 additional kiosks, representing an increase of 44.3% over the previous establishment at the Lok Ma Chau control point.

49 posts will be deleted in 2000-01 in the visa and administration offices. They were identified through critical re-assessment of service demands and re-grouping of duties. None of the posts at the control points will be affected. When devising our EPP plan, the Immigration Department is conscious of the criterion not to lower the service level and standard.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB102

Question Serial No.

1303

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Under Programme (1), the financial provision for 2000-01 is 12.5% higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000 due to the creation of 37 posts to cope with the increasing workload. Please inform this Council

- how many of them are responsible for implementing the Admission of Talents Scheme and what are their ranks and duties?
- how much resources will be allocated to implement the Admission of Talents Scheme?
- the progress of implementing the Admission of Talents Scheme?

Asked by : The Honourable Howard YOUNG

Reply :

- (d) Of the 37 posts, 10 will be for operating the Admission of Talents Scheme. The 10 posts comprise 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 1 Senior Immigration Officer, 6 Immigration Officers, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant. The immigration officers are responsible for processing the applications and handling operational matters of the Scheme.
- (e) About \$4.4 million will be required for the creation of the 10 posts for the Admission of Talents Scheme.
- (f) The Scheme has been in smooth progress since its implementation on 17 December 1999. As at the end of February 2000, a total of 69 applications were received. Of them, 4 were approved; 16 were refused/withdrawn; and 49 were under processing.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB103

Question Serial No.

1329

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

Head 70 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Immigration

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (d) In 2000-01, the Government estimates that there will be an increased expenditure of \$20.2 million for the creation of 37 posts to cope with the workload arising from the Admission of Talents Scheme and the applications for the Certificate of Entitlement. What is the number of new posts required respectively for the two projects?
- (e) Has the Government assessed the number of applications for the Admission of Talents Scheme that each new post can process on average?
- (f) How many applications have been received since the implementation of the Admission of Talents Scheme? And how many applications have been approved?

Asked by : The Honourable LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (d) Of the 37 posts, 27 will be created by the Immigration Department for handling applications and appeals relating to the Certificate of Entitlement Scheme; and 10 for processing applications and handling operational matters of the Admission of Talents Scheme.
- (e) The 10 posts earmarked for the Admission of Talents Scheme operate as a team and is expected to handle about 2 000 applications in the first year.
- (f) The Admission of Talents Scheme was implemented on 17 December 1999. As at end February 2000, a total of 69 applications were received. Of them, 4 applications have been approved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ambrose S K LEE

Post Title Director of Immigration

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB005

Question Serial No.

0044

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme : Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention (4502)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : As far as building inspections are concerned, have the authorities planned to deploy more manpower to deal with poorly managed old buildings with unauthorized rooftop structures? If yes, what are the plans?

Asked by : The Honourable Gary CHENG Kai-nam, J.P.

Reply : The Fire Services Department continues to maintain regular inspections to poorly managed old buildings, including those with unauthorized rooftop structures. Additional resources will be allocated to the Department for creation of 66 posts by phases in 2000-01 and 2001-02 to step up fire safety inspections in existing buildings, in particular the old composite buildings. Furthermore, the Fire Services and Buildings Departments will jointly set up a Steering Committee to better coordinate our efforts and resources to more efficiently and effectively deal with fire safety problems in existing buildings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB006

Question Serial No.

0045

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme : Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention (4502)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : The authorities have deleted 19 posts in the new financial year, while the 9 new posts are created to provide administrative support for the two fire protection Commands only. Under such circumstances, how can the efficiency of fire protection work be enhanced?

Asked by : The Honourable Gary CHENG Kai-nam, J.P.

Reply : Of the 19 posts to be deleted in 2000-01 under the Enhanced Productivity Programme, 17 posts arise from contracting out the provision and maintenance of portable fire fighting equipment in government premises. Regarding the remaining 2 posts, the work will be absorbed by redeployment of staff from Headquarters Administration. Thus, the efficiency of fire protection work will not be affected. To further enhance fire protection work, additional resources will be allocated to the Department for creation of 66 posts by phases in 2000-01 and 2001-02 to step up fire safety inspections in existing buildings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB008

Question Serial No.

0080

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

- Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department
- Programme: Programme (3) Ambulance Service (4503)
- Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services
- Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security
- Question : In respect of the matters requiring special attention in 2000-01 –
- (a) Please provide the timetable and amount of appropriation for continuing the examination of the possibility of providing all Ambulance Aid Motorcycles with paramedic capabilities.
 - (b) Please account for the staff establishment and estimated appropriation required for the development of a community education programme which includes the provision of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation training for the general public and staff of elderly homes.
- Asked by : The Honourable Lee Kai-ming, S.B.S., J.P.
- Reply :
- (a) The study on upgrading Ambulance Aid Motorcycle service to Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) II level has been completed. The results confirm that such programme is feasible. The Department plans to begin implementing this programme by stages in 2000-01. The additional resources involved in this programme are only restricted to the special allowances and training provided to EMA IIs as well as the cost of replacing some motorcycles and paramedic equipment of the motorcycles.
 - (b) The Fire Services Department has been implementing the community education programme since April 1999. Under this

programme, over 1 700 staff members of elderly homes and about 200 Fire Safety Ambassadors have received Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training. The Department will continue to implement this programme in 2000–01 to provide training to voluntary organizations and interested individuals. Our target is to train 2 000 people. This programme is implemented under the Enhanced Productivity Programme. The Department does not require additional staff and funds to meet the existing demand.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>TSANG KWONG YU</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Fire Services</u>
Date	<u>16 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

SB021

Question Serial No.

0289

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme: Programme (3) Ambulance Service (4503)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In 1999, 93.3% of all emergency calls were answered within the 12-minute target response time. What is the reason for its downward adjustment to 92.5% in the plan for 2000?

Asked by : The Honourable Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye,
J.P.

Reply : In 1999, the Fire Services Department's emergency ambulance service target is 92.5% of all emergency calls answered within the target response time of 12 minutes. The average performance in this respect was 93.3% in 1999. However, in view of the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service year by year and in consideration of manpower deployment and district development in this financial year, the Fire Services Department considers it more practicable and reasonable to maintain the performance pledge of 92.5% at this stage. The Department is conducting an overall review of emergency ambulance services, particularly paramedic ambulance service, with a view to determining the standard, quality and performance pledge of future emergency ambulance services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB032

Question Serial No.

0485

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme : Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention (4502)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : Regarding the Fire Services Ambassador Scheme, has the Department evaluated the degree of effectiveness of such a scheme conducted in 1999-2000?

Asked by : The Honourable Edward S.T. HO, S.B.S., J.P.

Reply : Up to date, the Department has trained 10 085 Fire Services Ambassadors (FSAs) coming from 31 private and public organizations. These FSAs have helped close more than 33 000 wedged-open smoke stop doors and reported 347 fire hazards. In addition, the FSAs actively took part in fire prevention campaigns and related activities. The Fire Services Ambassador Scheme is considered very effective. In 2000-01, we plan to recruit 5 000 more FSAs.

Signature _____
Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU
Post Title Director of Fire Services
Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB046

Question Serial No.

0651

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme : Programme (3) Ambulance Service (4503)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : In regard to emergency calls that were answered within the target response time of 12 minutes:

- (1) In the past two years, what were the respective figures for emergency calls answered by ambulance aid motorcycles earlier and those answered by ambulances earlier? How did these figures represent in percentages of the total emergency calls answered?
- (2) With respect to cases in which ambulance aid motorcycles arrived at scene earlier than ambulances, please provide figures on the time lag between the arrival of ambulance aid motorcycles and that of ambulances, as well as the average time lag.

Asked by : The Honourable James TO Kun-sun

Reply : From November 1998, the Fire Services Department used travel time and then response time as the emergency ambulance service performance indicator. All along, only the time for the first batch of ambulance resources arriving at scene was recorded for statistical purpose and we do not keep separate statistical information on the arrival of ambulances and ambulance aid motorcycles for comparison as mentioned in the question. Nevertheless, in January 2000, the Legco Security Panel requested the Fire Services Department to collect statistics on ambulance aid motorcycles' contribution to the overall emergency ambulance service in the 3-month period preceding March 2000. According to the preliminary information, over 93% of emergency calls were responded within the 12-minute response time which was slightly higher than the pledged emergency ambulance service performance target of 92.5%. Out of the above 93%, less than 1% of emergency calls relied on the contribution of the ambulance aid motorcycles in meeting the target response time of 12 minutes. The Department will present all gathered information to the Panel for scrutiny as soon as possible.

Signature _____
Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU
Post Title Director of Fire Services
Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB047

Question Serial No.

0652

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme : Programme (3) Ambulance Service (4503)

Controlling Officer : Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question : Under the Enhanced Productivity Programme, the Fire Services Department plans to replace ambulances with ambulance aid motorcycles. What are the estimated number of ambulances to be reduced and estimated number of ambulance aid motorcycles to be increased for the year 2000-01? How much resources will be involved?

Asked by : The Honourable LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : Under the Enhanced Productivity Programme, the Fire Services Department will not replace 3 ambulances which are no longer serviceable and will procure 9 ambulance aid motorcycles (including one motorcycle for reserve purposes) for the year 2000-01. This arrangement will not only enhance the use and deployment of the Department's resources, but will also extend the coverage of the ambulance aid motorcycle service. As a result, the Department will be able to attend emergency calls more flexibly and efficiently in districts where traffic is busy or remote areas without road networks. Under this enhanced productivity arrangement, there will be a decrease of 20 Ambulanceman posts in the Department's establishment. Consequently, about \$3.6m of annual personal emoluments and \$0.43m of annual departmental expenses will be saved. The reduction of 20 posts have been included in the vacancies in the establishment of Ambulanceman. Therefore, the number of frontline Ambulancemen, in fact, will not be affected or reduced.

Signature

Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB108

Question Serial No.

1255

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head Head 45 - Fire Services Department

Programme: Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention (4502)

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Security

Question:

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

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

This year, there has been \$3,000,000 included in the approved commitments and estimated 1999–2000 expenditure for various consultations by just Fire Services Department alone.

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

Subhead (Code)	Item (Code)	<u>Approved commitment</u>
		\$'000
700	631	3,000

Asked by: The Honourable Christine LOH

Reply:

The consultancy study was not intended to achieve savings. It was a technical study aimed at identifying measures for improving the safe conveyance of dangerous goods by road vehicles and examining our current requirements for storage of dangerous goods, with a view to aligning our safety requirements with international standards. Such consultancy expertise is not readily available within the Department.

Signature _____
Name in block letters TSANG KWONG YU
Post Title Director of Fire Services
Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB048

Question Serial No.

0660

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

Head 48 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Forensic Science Service

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

The administration states that a new section for the compilation of a DNA profile database of offenders will be set up pending approval of the proposed legislation on the taking of intimate and non-intimate samples. Would the administration inform us whether additional resources and staff will be provided for the setting up of the new section in 2000-2001 ? If so, please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

Additional resources and staff will be provided for setting up the new DNA Database Section in 2000-01 pending approval of the proposed legislation on the taking of intimate and non-intimate samples. The DNA Database Section will comprise 1 Senior Chemist, 3 Chemists and 4 Science Laboratory Technician IIs. The Hong Kong Police Force will initially provide funding (\$3.5 million per year) for reagents and staffing through deployment of resources. Additional funds of \$9.2 million have been reserved for the Government Laboratory to acquire the necessary equipment upon approval of the proposed legislation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters D. G. CLARKE

Post Title Ag Government Chemist

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB049

Question Serial No.

0661

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

Head 48 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Forensic Science Service

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

There is an increase of \$14.6 million (16.2%) in the estimated provision for this programme for 2000-01. This is mainly used for setting up the Parentage Testing Section to conduct parentage verification, for creating eight posts and for procuring equipment items. How many cases does the Government expect this Parentage Testing Section to handle in the coming year? What is the number of working days required per case?

Asked by : Hon James TO Kun-sun

Reply :

The Parentage Testing Section is estimated to have a handling capacity of around 2500 cases per year. The target time for completing a case will be 5 to 7 working days.

Signature _____

Name in block letters D. G. CLARKE

Post Title Ag Government Chemist

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SR050

Question Serial No.

0662

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

Head 48 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Forensic Science Service

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

How many cases did the Government Laboratory complete as far as the express counterfeit/forgery service is concerned in 1998 and 1999 respectively? What categories of documents were involved?

Asked by : Hon James TO Kun-sun

Reply :

The Government Laboratory completed 524 express counterfeit/forgery cases (619 items) in 1998, and 640 such cases (745 items) in 1999. The documents involved are categorized as follows:

Document	Items Examined (%)	
	1998	1999
Hong Kong Identity Card	415 (67%)	483 (65%)
Two-way Permit	67 (11%)	48 (6%)
Vietnamese Refugee Card	36 (6%)	147 (20%)
PRC Passport	17 (3%)	13 (2%)
Other Passport	32 (5%)	27 (4%)
Recognizance (for Vietnamese Refugees)	30 (5%)	1 (--)
Credit Card	4 (--)	9 (1%)
Other Document	18 (3%)	17 (2%)
Total	619 (100%)	745 (100%)

Signature _____

Name in block letters D. G. CLARKE

Post Title Ag Government Chemist

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB051

Question Serial No.

0663

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

Head 48 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Forensic Science Service

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

The public expect the Government to expedite the work of passport examination so that chances of unnecessary detention of the affected persons can be minimized. As regards the counterfeit/forgery service, can the Government Laboratory reduce the target working days per case from 33 days at present to a shorter period in 2000? Will any additional resources be required in order to do so?

Asked by : Hon James TO Kun-sun

Reply :

The service for counterfeit/forgery examinations comprises a wide variety of case types, the complexity of which varies considerably. The cases can be categorized into the following types:

- i) examination of official documents (documents issued by governments),
- ii) examination of other documents (credit cards, stock certificates, stamps etc.),
- iii) alteration/erasure,
- iv) impression/physical matching,
- v) chemical analysis (analysis of dye, ink, plastic etc),
- vi) multiple examinations (cases requiring more than two major work types),
- vii) clandestine document factory,
- viii) non-case related work (testing of HK identity cards, HKSAR passport laminates, etc) and
- ix) miscellaneous cases.

Some of the cases are complicated while many of them are simple. The turnaround time for the counterfeit/forgery cases therefore varies considerably. The defined target of 33 working days per case for the examination of counterfeit/forgery cases is an average figure for the above nine case types under a non-express service. In 1999, the Government Laboratory examined 636 such cases. Of them, 81 (13%) pertain to travel documents. Of these 81 cases, about 70% were completed within 11 working days. There is no plan to reduce the declared target of an average of 33 working days for counterfeit/forgery examinations since in many of these cases time is not of essence.

Signature _____

Name in block letters D. G. CLARKE

Post Title Ag Government Chemist

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB088

Question Serial No.

0657

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

Head 48 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Forensic Science Service

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

Under Programme (3), in response to the Court of Final Appeal's ruling on the right of abode of persons born out-of-wedlock of Hong Kong permanent residents, a new section is to be established. What is the estimated number of cases of testing to be processed per year ?

Asked by : Hon Michael HO Mun-ka

Reply :

As a result of the Court of Final Appeal's ruling on the right of abode of persons born out-of-wedlock to Hong Kong parents who are permanent residents, a Parentage Testing Section will be established to conduct parentage verification by means of DNA profiling techniques. Estimates by the client department, Immigration Department, indicate that the annual caseload will be around 2500.

Signature _____

Name in block letters D. G. CLARKE

Post Title Ag Government Chemist

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

SB0111

Question Serial No.

1077

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

Head 48 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Forensic Science Service

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

What is the financial and manpower provision for setting up the Parentage Testing Section? What is the estimated number of tests and other performance indicators for this service in 2000-01? What would be the cost and charges for such tests?

Asked by : Dr Hon Leong Che-hung, JP

Reply :

The Parentage Testing Section will have a manpower provision of 1 Senior Chemist, 3 Chemists and 4 Science Laboratory Technicians IIs. A capital vote of \$2.293 million will be provided for the acquisition of major equipment. It is estimated that in 2000-01, the new section will be conducting tests for about 2 500 cases. The target completion time for a case will be 5 to 7 working days. The cost for each case will depend on the number of samples tested and the analysis required, and the charge cannot be determined at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters D. G. CLARKE

Post Title Ag Government Chemist

Date 17 March 2000

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

Head 37 Department of Health Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 6 Treatment of Drug Abusers

Controlling Officer : Director of Health

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Security

Question :

- (a) The revised estimate and the approved estimate in 1999-2000 has decreased by 6.1%, affecting mainly subvented organizations. Please account for the decrease in provision and its impact on service plans.
- (b) What is the expenditure on methadone clinic service in the past 4 years and the estimated expenditure in the coming year? Does the average attendance rate correspond to the increase in expenditure? What is the specific content of the review of the methadone treatment programme by the Government? What is the expenditure involved and the completion date?

Asked by : Hon Michael HO Mun-ka

Reply :

- (a) The revised estimate for 1999-2000 is less than the approved estimate. This is because the new residential treatment and rehabilitation centre to be run by the Hong Kong Christian Service has not commenced operation.
- (b) The provision for the methadone treatment programme is :

	<u>\$ million</u>
1996-97	30.8
1997-98	30.9
1998-99	33.2
1999-2000	33.6
2000-01	35.0 (estimate)

The average attendance rates in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 are 70.4%, 69%, 69% and 69.3%.

The review of the methadone treatment programme aims at evaluating the usefulness and effectiveness of the programme, identifying areas for improvement, and considering other drugs which could be alternatives to, or complement methadone in drug detoxification and maintenance. The review is expected to be completed by end 2000. No additional resources are required for the review.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Dr Margaret CHAN

Director of Health

16 March 2000
