

Bureau Serial No.

WB001

Question Serial No.

0020

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

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

Programme : (5) Geotechnical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : In 2000-01, the Department will develop an alternative management option for disposal of contaminated mud. What is the option? What are the differences with the existing mud disposal management options? What is the estimated expenditure for this task?

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

Reply : At present, contaminated mud is disposed of at exhausted seabed pits at East Sha Chau and is then concealed by a layer of clean mud. To cope with the anticipated future demand when the current facility is exhausted in 2003, the Civil Engineering Department has employed a consultant since February 1999 to carry out a strategic assessment and site selection study for contaminated mud disposal.

The disposal options considered include:

- Poldering - confined disposal facility consisting of bunds that enclose a disposal area,
- Purposely-dredged seabed pits - pits dredged for receiving contaminated mud; this method was used at East Sha Chau from 1992 to 1997 and
- Existing exhausted seabed pits – use pits from sand dredging to receive contaminated mud; this method is currently used at East Sha Chau.

The first option is new to Hong Kong. The second option was used between 1992 and 1997 and the third option is the method used at East Sha Chau at present.

Advisory Committee on Environment will shortly be consulted on the selection of a preferred option for further work, including site investigation and detailed EIA studies, to confirm its final feasibility. The total cost of the task will cost about \$9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y. C. LO _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering _____

Date _____ 17 March 2000 _____

Bureau Serial No.

WB002

Question Serial No.

0144

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

Head 91 Lands Department Subhead (No. & title): —

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Works

Question: What is the estimated expenditure to be incurred by the Lands Department for the maintenance of slopes in this financial year? Which slopes will be repaired this year and what is the estimated cost?

Asked by: The Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply: The estimated expenditure to be incurred by Lands Department for maintenance of slopes in 2000-01 is \$43 million under Head 91. About 300 slopes will be selected for repair in 2000-01. Funds of about \$10 million from Head 91 will be used for any minor works. For major improvement works, the funds will come from the block allocation under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 705. The slopes affected are located throughout the Territory.

Signature _____

Name in block letters R.D. Pope

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 17.3.2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB003

Question Serial No.

0170

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 56 Subhead (No. & title) : 149 – General Departmental Expenses

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Works

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Head Count is falling substantially but general departmental expenses are at best static, why?

Asked by : The Honourable Christine Loh

Reply : The net reduction of 30 posts in 2000-01 mainly reflects the deletion of 34 posts for the Airport Core Programme seconded to four departments, namely, Highways, Lands, Planning and Water Supplies since their creation. The deletion of these posts has, therefore, no implication on Subhead 149 – General Departmental Expenses of Head 56.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEE SHING SEE

Post Title Secretary for Works

Date 10 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB004

Question Serial No.

0204

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

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

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Drainage Services Department (DSD) will provide professional advice and support to the development of new sites for housing and priority railway projects. Can the charge for this service offset part of DSD's expenditure? Can this service be entrusted to private consultants?

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

Reply : DSD's responsibilities include the setting of proper flood protection standards and the planning, operation and maintenance of the drainage systems throughout the territory to achieve these standards. As part of these responsibilities, DSD monitors and comments upon development and infrastructure projects in respect of overall standards and the interface between the private and the public drainage systems so that the community as a whole will not be subject to an increase in risk of flooding. DSD's role is more on the regulating side. It is, therefore, not appropriate to charge the public for such services.

These monitoring and regulating duties are not of a type that can be entrusted to private consultants.

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

Bureau Serial No.

WB005

Question Serial No.

0210

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 25 - Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) - Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : The Architectural Services Department has adopted ISO 14001 to enhance environmental improvements as part of its Quality Management System. What are the savings to be achieved by the department in this area as against the past year as a result of adopting ISO 14001? Under which item will the savings be reflected ?

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

Reply : We anticipate a saving of around 8% of the future consumption of electricity in new buildings, which will be reflected in future energy costs, through the various energy saving features incorporated, including:-

- enhanced overall thermal transfer value of building envelopes
- energy saving lighting
- heat recovery devices for air-conditioning systems
- energy management systems.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.H. PAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB006

Question Serial No.

0211

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 25 - Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) - Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : As compared to the 112 projects completed last year entailing an expenditure of \$10.761b, the number of projects that will be completed this year is estimated to be 96 with the expenditure amounting to \$11.003b. What are the main categories of the projects that will be developed this year ? Please describe the features of the expenditure items under these projects.

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

Reply : The estimated expenditure of \$11.003 billion is for on-going building projects and new projects to commence in 2000-01. The main categories of projects and their approximate percentage of expenditure for 2000-01 are as follows:-

Education	34.0%
Public safety	22.0%
Health	17.5%
Recreation, Culture and Amenities	12.0%
Government Offices and Support	9.0%
Environmental Hygiene	3.0%
Social Welfare and Community	2.5%

100.0%

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Signature _____

Name in block letters S.H. PAU

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB007

Question Serial No.

0299

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

Head 56 Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Works

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please list out the post titles, ranks and duties of the 30 posts to be deleted in 2000-01 and the reasons for their deletion.

Asked by : The Hon. James To Kun-sun

Reply : The reduction of 30 posts in 2000-01 is the **net** result of the deletion of 34 posts for the Airport Core Programme (ACP) and the creation of four posts. The titles and ranks of the 34 posts deleted are listed below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 Estate Surveyor | 2 Senior Technical officer |
| 1 Senior Engineer | 1 Senior Survey Officer (Land) |
| 1 Engineer/Assistant Engineer | 1 Senior Survey Officer (Estate) |
| 1 Senior Land Executive | 2 Chainman |
| 3 Land Executive | 1 Office Assistant |
| 3 Land Inspector I | 1 Motor Driver |
| 5 Land Inspector II | 2 Workman II |
| 1 Principal Technical Officer | 7 Technical Officer/Technical Officer Trainee |
| 1 Personal Secretary II | |

They were created for the delivery of ACP projects. Following the completion of the ACP, they can be deleted.

The four posts to be created are for strengthening support for planning, translation and secretarial services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEE SHING SEE

Post Title Secretary for Works

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB008

Question Serial No.

0301

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Water Quality Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : What measures have the Government adopted to ensure that the quality of potable water conforms to the standards for drinking water?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Government adopts the following measures to ensure the quality of the water supply conforms to the standards for drinking water :

- Protect the local water resources by implementing pollution control measures in Hong Kong's catchment areas.
- Monitor and maintain close liaison with the Guangdong authorities on day to day matters relating to the quality of Dongjiang water and discuss water quality improvement measures in each high level annual Business Meeting and half-yearly Operation & Management Technical Subgroup Meeting.
- Apply full treatment process to all raw waters at treatment works and practise a stringent water quality monitoring programme throughout the supply and distribution system to ensure the supply complies with the World Health Organisation guideline standards.
- Review treatment processes and keep abreast of international practices on water treatment.

- Proceed to set up an advisory committee on the quality of water supplies in 2000 to provide advice to the Government.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	HUGH PHILLIPSON
Post Title	Director of Water Supplies
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB 009

Question Serial No.

0302

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Water Quality Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : How many residents are consuming water not provided by the Water Supplies Department? Has the Water Supplies Department conducted any tests for the stream water or underground water taken by these residents? If yes, please state the no. of samples being tested every year, the cost incurred and the results. If not, please give the reasons.

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Currently about 15,000 residents at Discovery Bay use water from the private developer's water supply system. WSD has completed the necessary works for connecting a supply to Discovery Bay and will effect this supply on completion of preparation work by the management company of Discovery Bay scheduled for the middle of this year. It is estimated that there are about 8,800 village people living in scattered remote villages not supplied with piped water by Water Supplies Department. All along, the former Urban Services Department and Regional Services Department have monitored local streams and wells supply in remote villages by collecting water samples which they sent to either the Department of Health, Government Laboratory or Water Supplies Department for various laboratory analyses. In case of unsatisfactory water quality, they would put up notices to advise consumers of the need to boil the water before consumption. From January 2000, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has taken over the work of the two former Departments and continues the monitoring of water from streams and wells in remote villages.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HUGH PHILLIPSON

Post Title Director of Water Supplies

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB010

Question Serial No.

0303

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please list out the levels of arrears of water charges by customers in the past 3 years. What is the amount of money involved ? At present, how many customers still fail to pay the outstanding charges?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Arrears of water charges by customers in the past 3 years are listed below:-

		% on water charges demanded
As at 31.3.1999	\$17,371,000	0.7%
As at 31.3.1998	\$18,631,000	0.7%
As at 31.3.1997	\$16,419,000	0.6%

As at 31.1.2000, there were 18,186 customers who failed to pay outstanding water charges amounting to \$14,510,000, which is 0.7% on the water charges demanded.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HUGH PHILLIPSON

Post Title Director of Water Supplies

Date 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB011

Question Serial No.

0304

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : How much resources will be allocated for the enhancement of public education campaigns on slope safety?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : We have a dedicated team to promote slope safety through the educational and publicity program. The team comprises a Senior Geotechnical Engineer, a Geotechnical Engineer, a Senior Technical Officer (Geotechnical) and a Technical Officer (Geotechnical) under the supervision of a Chief Geotechnical Engineer in the Slope Safety Division of the Geotechnical Engineering Office. It is estimated that non-staff expenditures, including printing of publicity materials and production of education toolkits for schools, for 2000-01 are HK\$1.3 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y. C. LO

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB012

Question Serial No.

0305

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : How much resources will be allocated for the enhancement of advisory services to private slope owners on slope maintenance and improvement?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : We have set up a dedicated team to provide community advisory services to private slope owners since April 1999. This comprises a Senior Geotechnical Engineer, 2 Geotechnical Engineers, a Senior Technical Officer (Geotechnical) and 2 Technical Officer (Geotechnical) under the supervision of a Chief Geotechnical Engineer in the Slope Safety Division of the Geotechnical Engineering Office.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y. C. LO

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB013

Question Serial No.

0310

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

Head : 42 – Electrical & Mechanical Services Department

Programme : 4 – Centralised services and special support

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please describe in detail the demolition project of the Kwai Chung Incineration Plant (KCIP) and the Kennedy Town Incineration Plant (KTIP). What are the commencement and completion dates of the project?

Asked by : The Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The demolition projects of the Kwai Chung Incineration Plant (KCIP) and Kennedy Town Incineration Plant (KTIP) comprise the complete demolition of plant and equipment within the incinerators, the demolition of building structures and necessary decontamination of the land. The demolition of the plant and equipment within the two incineration plants have already been completed. At present, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being conducted to examine the extent of environmental protection measures to be undertaken in the building structure demolition process. The planning and tendering of the on-site demolition work will follow after the EIA.

Subject to funding approval, the tentative programme of the actual building structure demolition is given below :-

Date	Kwai Chung Incineration Plant	Kennedy Town Incineration Plant
Commencement	January 2002	September 2001
Completion	December 2002	August 2002

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 15 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB014

Question Serial No.

0311

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

Head : 42 – Electrical & Mechanical Services Department

Programme : 4 - Centralised Services and Special Support

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : What resources will be reserved for disposing of ozone depleting chemicals retired from fire fighting installations? What is the estimated amount of such chemicals retired in the next three years?

Asked by : The Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : All fire fighting installations in government buildings using ozone depleting chemicals have been completely replaced by environmental friendly chemicals. The retired ozone depleting chemicals from fire fighting installations (amounting to 14,500 kg) are being kept in government dangerous store. They will be disposed of by the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre of the Environmental Protection Department in due course.

There will be no further retirement of chemicals from installations in government buildings in the next 3 years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEUNG CHAM TIM

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 17 March, 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB015

Question Serial No.

0324

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

Head 56 Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Works

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : As stipulated under the "Aim and Brief Description" of Programme (3):Intra-Governmental Services, the Works Bureau will keep underspending on public works projects below 5%. Please provide detailed information relating to the performance of works departments in terms of underspending in 1999-2000 on public works projects under their supervision together with reasons for underspending. What measures the Administration will take in 2000-01 to enable its application for funding approval from the Finance Committee will not be over-estimated unnecessarily, and underspending can be kept below 5%?

Asked by : The Honourable James To Kun-sun

Reply : The information relating to the performance of the respective works departments in 1999-2000 in terms of under-expenditure on public works projects funded under the relevant heads of public works expenditure under their control is shown in the attached table.

It is our target to prepare estimate of project cost as accurate as possible when seeking funding approval from the Finance Committee. In preparing project estimate we will base on prevailing market conditions and unit costs of construction obtained from recently awarded contracts of similar nature. The estimate will also be critically scrutinized by senior officers within the

responsible works department. It is also our target to control the annual expenditure on public works such that the overall underspending on Public Works Programme as against the Approved Estimates in 2000-01 will be below 5%. We shall adopt stringent monitoring to ensure delivery of public works projects be on schedule.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEE SHING SEE

Post Title Secretary for Works

Date 14 March 2000

Table to Question 0324

Controlling Officer	Head	Original Estimate \$M A	Revised Estimate 99-00 \$M B	Over/(Under) Expenditure \$M C=B-A	% C/A	Main Reasons
DArchS	702	368.4	357.1	(11.3)	(3.1)	This is mainly due to the procurement of meteorological equipment and construction works.
	703	7,597.1	7,514.4	(82.7)	(1.1)	This is mainly due to the delay in procurement of equipment for improvement of operational facilities at ICAC Headquarters, Point and Central Court.
	711	224.2	213.5	(10.7)	(4.8)	This is due to the progress of District Headquarters Station in Tin Shui Wai.
	Total	8,189.7	8,085.0	(104.7)	(1.3)	
DCE	702	55.6	82.1	26.5	47.7	The increase is mainly due to the entering of the pre-works hence expenditure by 99-00.
	705	1,219.0	1,203.4	(15.6)	(1.3)	This is due to the change in the "Penny's Bay Reclamation" the Theme Park project.

	711	49.8	22.7	(27.1)	(54.4)	This is due to : (a) lower consumption commencement of the Development near Valley and Development (b) lower contract price Hung Hom Estates
	Total	1,324.4	1,308.2	(16.2)	(1.2)	
DDS	704	2,288.3	2,383.3	95.0	4.2	This is due to govt Central, Western and stage I works.
DHy	702	147.1	336.0	188.9	128.4	The increase is mainly finalisation of the study Lantau Fixed Cross more settlement of
	706	2,815.3	2,555.7	(259.6)	(9.2)	This is mainly due to the commencement of 10, slow progress of and delay in construction of Tolo Highway.
	711	125.2	73.7	(51.5)	(41.1)	This is mainly due to slow progress for Hang Road flyover Eastern Corridor.
	Total	3,087.6	2,965.4	(122.2)	(4.0)	
DTD	702	867.9	693.0	(174.9)	(20.2)	This is due to slow improvement works delay in settlement reclamation.
	707	2,491.4	2,253.4	(238.0)	(9.6)	This is mainly due to programme changes in Sha Tin.
	711	605.6	789.8	184.2	30.4	This is due to govt development and investigation for Trunk
	Total	3,964.9	3,736.2	(228.7)	(5.8)	
DWS	702	4.3	9.6	5.3	123.3	This is mainly due to settlement of contract
	709	948.5	964.9	16.4	1.7	This is mainly due to Improvement to T water supply.
	711	1,484.6	1,599.8	115.2	7.8	This is mainly due to water supply and transfer facilities Northeast New Terr
	Total	2,437.4	2,574.3	136.9	5.6	

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : It is stated in Programme (4): Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards that CED commenced a three-year project on systematic landslide studies in 1997 and intended to implement it from 2000 onward. Has the project been completed? If not, what is the anticipated completion date? If completed, what is the result of the study? What strategy has been formulated for the long-term implementation of landslide studies?

Asked by : Hon James TO Kun-sun

Reply : The 3-year trial project for the development and implementation of systematic landslide studies has been satisfactorily completed. A methodology has been developed for screening and studying failed slopes and their adjoining areas to assess whether any factors that are adverse to slope stability exist. This methodology was applied to the landslides in 1997, 1998 and 1999 and successfully identified about 60 slopes for injection into the Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme for integrated stability assessment and upgrading works. The project also provided forensic evidence for eight fatal or serious landslides involving subsequent legal proceedings. In addition, the slope safety system was reviewed based on the landslide data and recommendations for improving the system and slope engineering practice were formulated and are being implemented. The trial project concluded that the landslide study initiative should be implemented on a long term basis.

For long-term implementation, we have integrated the landslide study initiative with the LPM Programme and it is being implemented as part of the LPM Programme from year 2000 onward. This initiative supplements the conventional approach of selection and assessment of slopes under the LPM Programme, which is done on an individual slope basis as registered in the Catalogue of Slopes. The initiative will contribute to enhancing slope safety in Hong Kong by early identification of deserving slopes for timely action.

Signature

Name in block letters

Y. C. LO

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB017

Question Serial No.

0331

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : It is stated in Programme (4): Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards that CED has identified the maintenance responsibilities for the 54 000 man-made slopes in the Government Slope Catalogue. Among them how many are government slopes and private slopes? For those government slopes, which government departments will be allocated the maintenance responsibility? It is also mentioned that CED will complete the first round audits of slope maintenance works carried out by relevant departments in 2000. When exactly will the first round audits be completed? How frequent will the audits be carried out? What are the content and target of the audits? In case the slope maintenance work of a particular department does not meet CED's requirements, how can CED ensure that the department would comply with the requirements?

Asked by : Hon James TO Kun-sun

Reply : The Lands Department has completed the systematic identification of the maintenance responsibility for the 54,000 registered slopes in Hong Kong. 17,000 are of private maintenance responsibility and 37,000 are of government maintenance responsibility. The breakdown is as follows for government slopes.

Departments	Total
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation	1,000
Architectural Services	6,000
Drainage service	600
Highways	8,700
Housing	1,600
Lands	13,600
Water Supplies	5,500
Total	37,000

An annual audit report describing the state of government slope maintenance and the review of the follow-up actions will be produced. The first round audit for all government departments is in progress and will be completed in December 2000. The audit will be conducted annually thereafter.

The content of a slope maintenance audit consists of a review of the documented and implemented slope maintenance system adopted by the department, and observations in site inspections. The standard used is the Geoguide 5 – Guide to Slope Maintenance and relevant Works Bureau Technical Circulars on slope maintenance.

Observations and recommendations of an audit are prepared and sent to the audited department for follow-up actions. Their follow-up actions and the results of a follow-up audit will be incorporated in the audit records. The present audit procedure will ensure that the departments will take follow-up action to meet the standard requirements. Regular inter-departmental meetings are also held to discuss maintenance problems and improvement measures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y. C. LO

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB019

Question Serial No.

0333

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : In respect of the ten-year Extended LPM Programme to commence in the year 2000, how many government slopes will be upgraded per year in the next 10 years? What are the cost incurred and the number of staff involved?

Asked by : Hon LEE Wing-tat

Reply : A total of 2,500 substandard Government slopes will be upgraded under the ten-year Extended Landslip Preventive Measures Programme between 2000 and 2010, i.e. 250 slopes per year. This will involve a total capital expenditure of about HK\$ 8,400 million (at March 1999 price level) and deployment of about 150 staff in the Civil Engineering Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y. C. LO

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB020

Question Serial No.

0334

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : It is stated in Programme (4) : Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards that CED had given priority to slopes affecting schools. Has CED completed the slope investigation for private schools? If negative, when will they be completed? If positive, how many slopes in the neighbourhood of private schools have been identified for remedial works after detailed investigation? Will private schools involved be required to shoulder all the cost of slope remedial works? Is there any measure to relieve the burden of private schools in settling such cost?

Asked by : Hon LEE Wing-tat

Reply : From a screening of 1,965 slopes affecting schools, we have identified 392 private slopes as requiring stability assessment under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme. The stability assessment on all the 392 slopes has already been completed. 244 slopes were found to be substandard and were recommended for service of Dangerous Hillside Orders under the Buildings Ordinance.

The costs of the upgrading works on the private slopes are borne by the private owners concerned. Government financial subsidy is available to Aided schools, Caput schools, Bought Place schools and schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme for their slope upgrading works. A loan fund was also set up in June 1999 to provide financial assistance to private schools in order to help them arrange their slope upgrading works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y. C. LO

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB021

Question Serial No.

0335

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : In respect of the ten-year Extended LPM Programme to commence in the year 2000, how many private slopes will be studied per year in the next 10 years? What will be the cost incurred and the number of staff involved?

Asked by : Hon LEE Wing-tat

Reply : We will carry out safety screening studies on 3,000 private slopes under the ten-year Extended Landslip Preventive Measures Programme between 2000 and 2010, i.e. 300 slopes per year. This will involve a total expenditure of about HK\$300 million (at March 1999 price level) and the deployment of about 50 staff in the Civil Engineering Department and the Buildings Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y. C. LO

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB022

Question Serial No.

0336

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : In the past 5 years, how many private slopes were studied under the LPM Programme and how many DHOs were issued by the Building Authority? Among which how many owners were prosecuted for non-compliance with the Orders and what were their penalties?

Asked by : Hon LEE Wing-tat

Reply : Safety-screening studies were carried out on 1,510 private slopes in the past 5 years under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme. In the period, 935 Dangerous Hillside Orders were served by the Building Authority (BA). There are two prosecution cases instigated by the BA for non-compliance with the Orders.

One of the prosecution case was subsequently withdrawn by the BA because the slope concerned involved multi-ownership and some of the owners had either deceased or migrated overseas. The investigation and upgrading of the slope concerned are now undertaken by the BA under the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance. The costs incurred together with overhead charges will be recovered from the owners. As regards the other prosecution case, a fine of \$4,722 was imposed on each of the private owners involved upon conviction of the offence.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y. C. LO

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB023

Question Serial No.

0337

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 25 - Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) - Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please set out the post titles, ranks and responsibilities of the 3 posts to be created in 2000-01.

Asked by : Hon LEE Wing-tat

Reply : The three posts to be created in 2000-01 include one Senior Chinese Language Officer, one Chinese Language Officer II and one Calligraphist. They form a translation team and its main duties will be to translate professional and technical manuals, reports, project documents, information materials and updating of departmental homepage, as well as related correspondence and publicity materials.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.H. PAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB024

Question Serial No.

0338

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 25 - Architectural Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works and Secretary for the Treasury

Question : Did Arch SD contract out any of its monitoring and advisory services, facilities upkeep and facilities development services to private consultants in 1999? If so, what are the percentages? Please also give details of the services contracted out and the expenditures incurred. What are the percentages of these services expected to be contracted out to consultants in 2000?

Asked by : Hon LEE Wing-tat

Reply : For 1999/2000, about 32% of Arch SD's projects by number were outsourced to consultants. These included consultancies for architectural and structural engineering, quantity surveying, building services and facilities maintenance. The expenditure incurred was \$286 million.

The current outsource plan for 2000/2001 is 23% of projects by number.

Signature _____

Name in block letters S.H. PAU

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB025

Question Serial No.

0341

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 39 Drainage Services Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please provide a detailed list of the titles, ranks and duties of the 43 posts to be created in 2000-2001.

Asked by : Hon LEE Wing-tat

Reply : The 43 posts to be created in 2000-01 are the net effect of the creation of 49 posts and the deletion of 6 posts as listed below :-

Creation

2 Engineers
1 Senior Inspector of Works
2 Inspector of Works
2 Assistant Inspector of Works
2 Senior Electronic Inspectors
1 Electronic Inspector
1 Senior Mechanical Inspector
1 Assistant Mechanical Inspector
1 Chief Technical Officer
3 Technical Officers
1 Engineering Laboratory Technician II
1 Survey Officer (Quantity)
4 Works Supervisors I
9 Works Supervisors II
10 Senior Artisans
2 Artisans
1 Clerical Officer
1 Assistant Clerical Officer
1 Clerical Assistant
1 Workman I
2 Workmen II

49

Deletion

(1) Senior Environmental Protection Officer
(1) Environmental Protection Officer
(4) Works Supervisors II
(6)

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

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

J. Collier

Director of Drainage Services

16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB026

Question Serial No.

0342

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

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

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : In the brief description of Programme (1) Stormwater Drainage, it mentions that Drainage Services Department will continue with the design and construction work on major flood prevention projects in flood prone areas of the New Territories. Please list, in details, the approved construction items to commence work in 2000 and items now under construction, including titles, estimated project cost and expected completion dates.

Asked by : Hon LEE Wing-tat

Reply : The details regarding the major flood prevention projects in flood prone areas of the New Territories undertaken by Drainage Services Department are listed below :

Projects to commence work in Year 2000

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Project Cost (\$)	Expected Completion Date
4101CD/A	Rural Drainage Rehabilitation Scheme, stage 2, phase 1 – Nam Hang drainage improvement	17M	mid 2002
7030CD/B	Village Flood Protection for Yuen Long, Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei, North West New Territories, stage IB – Chuk Yuen Tsuen/Ha San Wai	103M	early 2003

Projects under construction

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Project Cost (\$)	Expected Completion Date
4091CD/A	Rural Drainage Rehabilitation Scheme, stage 1, phase 1A – rehabilitation works at Ng Tung River	231M	early 2001
4093CD/A	Rural Drainage Rehabilitation Scheme, stage 1, phase 1B – rehabilitation works at Sheung Yue River	246M	mid 2001
4031CD/A	Regulation of Shenzhen River, stage II, phase II – improvement to river sections between Liu Pok and Lok Ma Chau and from Lok Ma Chau to estuary	526M	end 2000
7095CD/A	Main drainage channels for Yuen Long and Kam Tin stage 2 – Kam Tin San Tsuen to Wang Toi Shan section	419M	early 2002
7097CD/A	Main drainage channels for Yuen Long and Kam Tin stage 2 – Kam Tin Road to Tai Kek section	410M	early 2002
7098CD/A	Phase 1 village flood protection for Pok Wai and Wang Chau, North West New Territories	107M	late 2002
7100CD/A	Main drainage channel for Ngau Tam Mei phase 1 – Yau Mei San Tsuen to Tai Sang Wai section	443M	late 2002

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

Bureau Serial No.

WB027

Question Serial No.

0377

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 25 - Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) - Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : (1) In respect of architectural and engineering consultancies, what was the percentage of the works of the Department that were outsourced in 1999 ?

(2) What will be the percentage of works to be outsourced in 2000 ?

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

Reply : In respect of architectural and engineering consultancies, an overall of 32% of Arch SD's projects by number is outsourced to consultants in 1999/2000.

It is estimated that an overall of 23% of Arch SD's projects by number is planned for outsourcing to consultants in 2000/2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters S.H. PAU

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**Head : 194-Water Supplies DepartmentSubhead (No. & title) :Programme : (2) Water Quality ControlControlling Officer : Director of Water SuppliesBureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please state how much in the Estimates of Expenditure will be spent on purchasing chemicals necessary for the treatment of Dongjiang water and how much will be the electricity expenses on pumping, mixing and aeration processes?

Asked by : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JPReply :

When Dongjiang water is received at Muk Wu Pumping Station, it undergoes an aeration process, which is a continuous preliminary treatment to improve the quality of the raw water before distribution. The estimated expenditure on electricity power for 2000-01 is \$1m, same as that for last year.

If the quality of Dongjiang water is found to be fluctuating, we may make special pumping arrangements to transfer the raw water from local impounding reservoirs to blend with the Dongjiang water before treatment. However, this arrangement is only considered as a second choice alternative. Whenever the quality of Dongjiang water indicates deterioration we always immediately bring the matter up to the Guangdong side, who have been cooperative in taking positive control measures. Since the commissioning of the bio-nitrification plant in December 1998, the expenditure on pumping and blending arrangement has been minimal. As such there is no need to make provision in the 2000 - 01 estimate for this purpose.

The estimated expenditure on water treatment chemicals for 2000 - 01 is \$67.4m, which is \$2.3m less than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This estimate applies to the whole of the drinking water output in Hong Kong. As our treatment works treat both Dongjiang water and water from local impounding reservoirs, there is no breakdown of estimated expenditure for each.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

HUGH PHILLIPSON

Post Title _____

Director of Water Supplies

Date _____

16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB030

Question Serial No.

0489

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Water Quality Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : In the year 1999-2000, how much has been spent in the treatment of Dongjiang water so as to meet the quality standard of the WHO? In comparison with the year 1998-99, is the cost going up or down?

Asked by : Hon HUI Cheung-ching

Reply :

Dongjiang water is treated together with water from local reservoirs at the same time. Expenditure on water treatment is thus on the basis of the overall drinking water output in Hong Kong. In 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (up to 29 February 2000), the unit filtration cost for the treatment of potable water was HK\$0.122/m³ and HK\$0.113/m³ respectively. There has been a slight decrease in the unit filtration cost due to improvement in Dongjiang water quality since early 1999.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HUGH PHILLIPSON

Post Title Director of Water Supplies

Date 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB031

Question Serial No.

0562

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 25 - Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) - Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : With regard to one of the targets of the department related to vetting final accounts within 90 days, please advise whether there was any target for the settlement of final accounts, if not, why not?

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

Reply : The target of vetting final accounts within 90 days is for subvented projects undertaken by Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). We are responsible for ensuring that these projects conform to Government's requirements. Vetting of final accounts is one of the activities in discharging this responsibility. The final accounts are prepared by the NGOs for our vetting. The NGOs are responsible for the settlement of the final accounts. We are not involved in the settlement process.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.H. PAU

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB032

Question Serial No.

0633

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 39 Drainage Services Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Eleven posts will be created under Programme (1). What is the percentage increase? What is the financial allocation involved?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Reply : The creation of 11 posts in 2000-01 represents an increase of 1.9% of staff deployed under the Stormwater Drainage programme, and involves financial provision of \$1.5 million in 2000-01.

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

Bureau Serial No.

WB033

Question Serial No.

0634

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 39 Drainage Services Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : How many stormwater drainage projects are under detailed design this year? How many of them are part of the major flood prevention projects in flood prone areas at the New Territories? What are the details, the estimated completion dates and financial resources required?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Reply : In 2000, Drainage Services Department will continue with the detailed design of 9 stormwater drainage projects. Eight of them are major flood control projects in the New Territories. The details of these projects are listed below:-

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost (\$M)	Brief Description
4101CD ⁽¹⁾	Rural Drainage Rehabilitation Scheme, Stage 2, Phase 1 – Nam Hang drainage improvement	mid 2002	17	To construct a box culvert at Nam Hang
4064CD ⁽²⁾	Rural Drainage Rehabilitation Scheme – works for Ping Yuen River, Sha Po Tsuen and Mo Fan Heung Stream	early 2005	165	To provide rehabilitation works at Ping Yuen River, Sha Po and Mo Fan Heung
4090CD ⁽²⁾	Regulation of Shenzhen River, Stage III	early 2005	458	To train the Shenzhen River upstream of Lo Wu
4092CD ⁽²⁾	Yuen Long, Kam Tin, Ngau Tam Mei and Tin Shui Wai drainage improvement, Stage 1	mid 2006	534	To train a series of secondary streamcourses in the North West New Territories
7030CD ⁽²⁾	Village Flood Protection for Yuen Long, Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei – Stage I - remainder	mid 2004	238	To construct village flood protection schemes at flood prone villages including Wang Chau and Chuk Yuen Tsun/Ha San Wai
7070CD ⁽²⁾	Yuen Long Bypass Floodway	end 2005	413	To construct a drainage channel at Yuen Long South
7073CD ⁽²⁾	Main Drainage Channels for San Tin, NWNT Phase 3, Part 1 – Eastern Main Drainage Channel for San Tin	early 2005	240	To construct a main drainage channel at San Tin
7074CD ⁽²⁾	Village Flood Protection for Yuen Long, Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei – Stage II	mid 2005	260	To construct village flood protection schemes at a number of flood prone villages in the North West New Territories

Notes : ⁽¹⁾ Construction will commence in Year 2000.

⁽²⁾ Subject to funding approval.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

J. Collier

Director of Drainage Services

16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB034

Question Serial No.

0736

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title): 002- Allowances
007 – Job-related allowances

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

- Question :
- (a) Please give the reason for the decrease of \$5,991,000 in the provision for allowances under personal emoluments for 2000-01 as compared with that of the previous year. What allowances are involved in the decrease?
 - (b) The increase of \$929,000 in the provision for Job-related allowances over that for the previous year is mainly for payment of hardship allowance and shift duty allowance. What is the rationale for the increase? Are staff's workload and hardship expected to increase?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

1. The decrease in Personal Emoluments is mainly due to savings in overtime allowance achieved through streamlining of work and stricter control.
2. In the 1999 review on duties undertaken in the carriageways by Works Supervisor II, it was established that 70 additional concerned posts were eligible for hardship allowance. Furthermore, shift duty allowance will be increased due to the commissioning of new waterworks installations during 2000-01. As a result, additional resources were sought to meet the expenses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	HUGH PHILLIPSON
Post Title	Director of Water Supplies
Date	15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB035

Question Serial No.

0737

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Water Quality Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : A 9.3% growth in water quality control expenditure is posted in the Government's 2000-01 budget. Is it something to do with the treatment of the continuous deterioration of Dongjiang water quality?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply :

Since the operation of the bionitrification plant at the Shenzhen Reservoir at the beginning of 1999 bringing significant improvement to the quality of Dongjiang water, the Draft Estimate for water treatment chemicals in 2000-01 of \$67.4m is actually slightly lower than the Revised Estimate of 1999-2000 (\$69.7m). The 9.3% (\$15.6m) increase in the Draft Estimate of 2000-01 for water quality control is mainly due to improvement of laboratory facilities, addition and replacement of equipment, including analytical instruments for water quality monitoring and purchase of replacement chlorine valves (for preventive maintenance).

Signature _____

Name in block letters HUGH PHILLIPSON

Post Title Director of Water Supplies

Date 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB036

Question Serial No.

0738

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

- Question :
- (a) Will the Government in this financial year adopt measures to further reduce the purchase quantity of water in order to minimize wastage and cut down the relevant expenses?
 - (b) How many remote villages in the New Territories still do not have tap water supply at present? Where are those villages distributed? What are the village names and how many people will be affected? When will the resources be allocated so that tap water supply can be provided for those villages?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply :

- (a) The quantity of Dongjiang water to be purchased from Guangdong this year has already been stipulated in the agreement between the Guangdong and the Hong Kong sides. However, if there is abundant water storage with plentiful rainfall in Hong Kong, the Water Supplies Department will arrange with Guangdong to reduce the supply quantities so as to minimize overflow from our reservoir and to cut down the cost of pumping water.
- (b) At present, 54 remote villages in Hong Kong are not yet provided with metered water supply. They include 26 villages in the New Territories and 28 villages in Lantau and the outlying islands. Besides, Hok Tsui Village on Hong Kong Island also does not have metered water supply. Please refer to Enclosure 1 for the names of these villages. The total population of these villages is about 8,800. Currently Water Supplies Department has several Category A and Category D projects with funds allocated for implementing works for providing metered water supply to 21 of these villages. The projects for providing metered water supply to the remaining 34 villages are now in the planning stage. Implementation of these projects will depend, inter alia, on population change and development plans for those villages.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

HUGH PHILLIPSON

Director of Water Supplies

Enclosure 1

District	Name of Villages not yet provided with Metered Water Supply
Hong Kong Island	Hok Tsui Village
Lantau Island	Ngong Ping, Tei Tong Tsai, Lower Keung Shan, Tai Long Wan, Lai Chi Yuen, Wan Tsai, Ngau Kwu Long, Pak Mong, Tai Ho
	Mok Ka, Ma Wan Chung, Nim Yuen, San Tau, Shan Ha, Wong Nei Uk, Ngau Au, Mong Tung Wan, Luk Keng
	Wang Tong, Pui O Au, Yi O, Tai Long, Upper Wong Lung Hang, Tai Chuen, Tso Wan, Fan Lau
New Territories	Wong Chuk Yeung (Sha Tin), Fa Sam Hang
	Upper Lui Kung Tin, Kap Lung
	Wu Kau Tang, Kau Tam Tso, Lai Chi Wo, Kat O, Ap Chau, Kau Sai
	Tap Mun, Ko Lau Wan, Tan Ka Wan, To Kwa Peng, Ma On Shan Tsuen, Tai Long (Sai Kung), Sai Wan, Ham Tin
	Tai Tit Yan, Wong Chuk Yeung (Tai Po), Yuen Tun Ha, Tung Sam Kei, Sham Chung, Lai Chi Chong, Tin Fu Tsai, Mui Tsz
Outlying Islands	Po Toi, Tung Lung

Bureau Serial No.

WB037

Question Serial No.

0909

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 700

General Other Non-recurrent

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please provide details of the Consultancy for the Surface Asset Management Study included under subhead 700. What is the commencement date of the study? What is the completion date?

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The objective of the consultancy study is to develop a detailed methodology to enable the Water Supplies Department to establish an asset management plan for its surface assets such as water treatment works, pumping stations, service reservoirs etc. The plan will provide a strategic basis for the Department to assess the need for improvement and maintenance of such surface assets in the coming 20 years. The study is scheduled to commence in June 2000 and will be completed by mid 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

HUGH PHILLIPSON

Post Title _____

Director of Water Supplies

Date _____

15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB038

Question Serial No.

0910

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700
General other non-recurrent

Programme : (1) Water Supply : Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please elaborate the government's plan on the increase of inspection of slopes and water supplies pipes which may affect slopes. Please give an account of the resources involved.

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : To enhance inspection of slopes and water mains that may affect slope stability, the Water Supplies Department deploys in-house staff to carry out annual Routine Inspection of slopes, supplemented by Consultants to carry out Engineer Inspections for Maintenance as well as Leakage Check on watermains affecting slopes in five-year cycles. The first 5-year cycle of Leakage Check on water mains affecting slopes and Engineer Inspections has commenced in 1997 and in 1998 respectively and is in good progress.

The estimated costs for Engineer Inspection and Leakage Check in 2000-01 are \$6M and \$17M respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ HUGH PHILLIPSON _____

Post Title _____ Director of Water Supplies _____

Date _____ 15 March 2000 _____

Appendix 2

Bureau Serial No.

WB039

Question Serial No.

0917

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head: 56 - Government Secretariat: Planning and Lands Bureau and Works
Bureau

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Works

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please provide details on the Consultancy on electronic transactions in works departments. When will the study start and when will it be completed?

Asked by : The Honourable Mr. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Information Technology (IT) has increasingly played a pivotal role to enhance the productivity of the local construction industry and to improve our competitiveness. The last few years have seen major overhaul in most construction players to automate their internal workflow. Hence the industry is now in a better position to gain further benefits from more use of IT. With the promulgation of the Electronic Transaction Ordinance in early 2000, we should be able to establish an industrial wide platform to effect Electronic Services Delivery (ESD) so that information associated with project implementation can be exchanged and shared among the various project participants. Through this initiative, we would be able to further improve our productivity and quality of construction works.

The proposed study will comprehensively review the various processes and documents that are required in the project delivery, identify and resolve the issues impeding to the ESD implementation and to recommend how the initiatives can be taken forward. It will also build up a business case through the assessment of costs and benefits.

The consultant selection process for the study will commence in April 2000. The study will start in mid-2000 and will be completed in mid- 2001.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEE SHING SEE

Post Title Secretary for Works

Date 15 March 2000

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

Head 56 - Government Secretariat: Planning and Lands Bureau and
Works Bureau

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Works

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please provide details on the Consultancy on Computer-aided drafting (CAD) standards for works departments. When will the study start and when will it be completed?

Asked by : The Honourable Mr. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Works Departments started making use of CAD technology in the late 1980's for preparation of project drawings. Recently, as CAD systems are commonly adopted by all the participants in project delivery, the digital drawings have become a popular medium for exchanging project information. The use of CAD files as a medium for collaboration is, however, hampered by the inconsistent drawing standards in the various participants in project delivery.

To streamline the exchange of CAD files, the study will look at the existing standards now deployed at the various works departments and their business partners, to identify and resolve issues impeding to the ready exchange of project drawings and to recommend how we should carry forward this initiative. The study will deliver two sets of drawing standards as below:-

- (a) Presentation standards that will define the physical appearance and logical meaning of drawing symbols; and
- (b) Data standards that will define the standards for exchanging CAD files with minimum efforts in data conversion.

The consultant selection process for the study will commence in mid-2000. The study will start in the third quarter of 2000 and will be completed in mid-2001.

The study on CAD standards and the study on Electronic Services Delivery (ESD) for works projects are inter-related and will complement with each other. The ESD study will be focused on the feasibility of deploying ESD in the various stages of the project life cycle and in formulating a high level strategy for subsequent implementation. It will suitably take account of the deliverables from the study on the development of CAD standards. On the other hand, the CAD study will be more technically orientated focusing on the formulation of the necessary standards so that the industry can directly benefit. Obviously, the CAD standards will be one of the important data infrastructures for ESD implementation. We will ensure that the two studies are well co-ordinated to avoid overlaps in the study scope.

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEE SHING SEE

Post Title Secretary for Works

Date 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB041

Question Serial No.

0927

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

Head 91 Lands Department Subhead (No. & title) : —

Programme : (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Lands

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question: The number of man-made slopes on unallocated Government land to be inspected in 2000 is estimated at 4 000 which is doubled the actual number inspected in 1999. Why? How much additional manpower and resources will be needed? Where are these 4 000 man-made slopes (in relation to the 18 administrative districts in Hong Kong)?

Asked by: The Hon. James To Kun-sun

Reply: As some 14 000 man-made slopes are under the maintenance responsibility of Lands D, we need to accelerate the rate of inspection of man-made slopes on unleased and unallocated Government land in order to meet Government's overall target of substantially completing Engineer Inspections for all Government slopes by September 2002. Slope inspections will essentially be carried out by geotechnical engineering consultants employed by Lands Department. It is estimated that the cost of consultancies for slope inspections will be increased from \$18 million in 1999-2000 to \$33 million in 2000-01.

The distribution of the 4 000 slopes to be inspected is roughly estimated to be 650 slopes in Hong Kong Island, 250 slopes in Kowloon, 1 600 slopes in New Territories East and 1 500 slopes in New Territories West. The exact locations of these slopes are still being planned by the Engineer Inspection consultants on the basis of geographical areas instead of the administrative districts with a view to working out a detailed programme for inspecting them quickly and efficiently.

/2 ...

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>R.D. Pope</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Lands</u>
Date	<u>17.3.2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

WB042

Question Serial No.

0928

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

Head 91 Lands Department Subhead (No. & title) : —

Programme : (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Lands

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question: According to the Controlling Officer's Report, Lands Department will carry out works to improve the man-made slopes on unallocated Government land by taking prescriptive improvement measures. What do such "Prescriptive" improvement measures include? Will arrangements be made to deploy staff responsible solely for these works? If yes, what is the size of this team of staff? What are their ranks and the expenses involved?

Asked by: The Hon. James To Kun-sun

Reply: Prescriptive improvement measures encompass standardized and empirical preventive works that can be prescribed by geotechnical engineers from experience to improve the stability of slopes without the need for detailed design, ground investigation and laboratory soil testing. These measures can therefore be applied to improving slopes quickly and cost-effectively. Examples of the measures are surface protection and drainage facilities, subsoil drains, soil nails and skin walls for strengthening masonry retaining walls.

Lands Department has engaged geotechnical consultants to inspect man-made slopes under its responsibility. Where necessary, prescriptive measures are recommended by these consultants for slope improvement. The Slope Maintenance Section of the department will follow up on the recommended prescriptive measures and supervise the implementation of these works by their maintenance contractor. About 22 professional and technical staff will be involved in design and supervision of these works, consisting of 1 Senior Geotechnical Engineer, 2 Geotechnical Engineers, 1 Senior Inspector of Works, 2 Inspectors of Works, 4 Assistant Inspector of Works, 11 Works Supervisors and 1 Survey Officer (Quantities).

The estimated expenditure for prescriptive works in the financial year 2000-01 is about \$26 million and will be made available from the block allocation under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 705.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ R.D. Pope _____
Post Title	_____ Director of Lands _____
Date	_____ 17.3.2000 _____

Bureau
Serial No.

WB043

Question
Serial No.

0929

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

Head : 705 - Civil Engineering Subhead (No. & title) : 5001BX
Landslip preventive
measures

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : It is stated under the Capital Works Reserve Fund that the Government will allocate \$925 million for landslip preventive measures in 2000-01. Please provide details of the scope and key items of the work and the areas involved (division based on 18 administrative districts in the territory).

Asked by : Hon James TO Kun-sun

Reply : The key items under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme to be carried out in the year 2000-01 are as follows:

- (1) ground investigations;
- (2) studies of slopes stability and landslides, and design and supervision of slope upgrading works;
- (3) slope upgrading works; and
- (4) urgent repairs to government slopes.

We plan to complete stability studies for 550 slopes and upgrading works for 250 government slopes in 2000-01. The slopes mainly affect occupied buildings, busy roads and community facilities. They are scattered throughout Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories. We package the slope studies and works in the territory on the basis of geographical areas. The estimated numbers of the slopes to be dealt with in the relevant geographical areas are as follows:

<u>Geographical Areas</u> <u>Works</u>	Estimated No. of Slopes (2000-01)	
	<u>Study</u>	<u>Upgrading</u>
Hong Kong Island	180	80
Kowloon	70	50
New Territories (East)	200	65
New Territories (West)	100	55

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y. C. LO

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 17 March 2000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : It is estimated by the Department that there will be a net deletion of 8 posts under this programme. In this connection, may the Government advise this Council :

- (a) Which ranks do these 8 posts belong to ?
- (b) Whether these posts are occupied by existing civil servants and how these officers will be deployed if the relevant posts are deleted? Will all of them get proper transfer arrangements?
- (c) Are the duties to be undertaken by non-civil service contract staff the same as those of the posts to be deleted?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Wing-chan

Reply :

- (a) Under Programme (3), this Department proposes on the one hand to delete 13 Assistant Clerical Officer posts for employment of non-civil service contract staff to enhance customer service, and on the other hand to create 5 Artisan posts for a period of three years for replacement of old water meters in Kowloon East and Sai Kung areas. These meters are reaching the end of their serviceable life, and are deteriorating in measurement accuracy. The net deletion of posts under this programme is 8.
- (b) All the 13 Assistant Clerical Officer posts to be deleted are now filled by civil servants. To tie in with the deletion of the posts, the concerned staff will be transferred to fill other vacancies in the Department or transferred to fill vacancies in other departments as arranged by the Director of General Grades.
- (c) The duties of the non-civil service contract staff to be employed are similar to those performed by the existing Assistant Clerical Officers. Since these posts involve constant shift duties or more flexible working hours, non-civil service contract staff are considered more suitable to take up the job.

Signature

Name in block letters HUGH PHILLIPSON

Post Title Director of Water Supplies

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB045

Question Serial No.

1000

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : The number of dangerous slopes repaired : 46 in 1998, 67 in 1999.
Why is it estimated that there is only 50 in 2000?

Asked by : Honourable Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply :

The improvement programme on slopes affecting private schools was launched in mid-1997. As a result, there was a substantial increase in the number of dangerous hillside orders issued in 1998, a fair proportion of which had to be complied with before the beginning of the new school year in 1999. This therefore led to an unusually high number of dangerous slopes repaired in 1999. Upon completion of the improvement programme for slopes affecting private schools, we anticipate that enforcement action on dangerous slopes will revert to the normal pace, hence the estimated 50 cases in 2000.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C M LEUNG

Director of Buildings

16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB046

Question Serial No.

1095

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 25 - Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) - Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Relating to matters requiring special attention in 2000-01, please advise whether the department has considered the use of non-standard design for primary and secondary schools. If the answer is in the negative, please advise the reasons.

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

Reply : In general, we adopt standard designs/layout for government-built school premises. This is primarily due to our undertaking of a massive school building programme; adoption of standard designs/layout will enable works to complete quicker. That said, we have been actively pursuing non-standard designs/layout for schools whenever practicable and if resources permit. For example, we have modified the standard design/layout when developing school estates or twin schools. In addition, we are exploring with other relevant departments on how to make the best use of the recent relaxation of restriction of school height by adopting innovative designs/layout. More generally, where site constraints so demand, we will adopt non-standard designs/layout.

Currently we are designing five non-standard primary schools and one non-standard secondary school which are scheduled for completion in 2002 and 2003. An additional two primary schools adopting the modified standard design are scheduled for completion in 2003 and 2004. Feasibility studies for a further three non-standard primary schools and three non-standard secondary schools are being prepared.

In addition to primary and secondary schools, all special schools, practical schools and skills opportunity schools utilize non-standard designs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters S.H. PAU

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB047

Question Serial No.

1106

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : 702 – Port and Airport Development

Programme :

Controlling Officer :

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please provide details on the item “Projects completed, cancelled or curtailed” under Head 702 in the revised budget for the year 1999-2000 and the amount involved.

Asked by : The Hon. LAU Chin-shek, JP

Reply :

The items covered by “Works completed, cancelled or curtailed” under Head 702 are :-

Sub-head (Code)	Approved projects	Rev Est 99/00 (‘000)
2005AG	Premium for the Owner Controlled Insurance Programme, phase I for the Airport Core Programme projects	10
2101AP	Investigation and design for Lantau Port Development - phase I and II, stage I	7,416

..../Cont'd

2110AP	Study on Tonggu Waterway	2,600
2038FS	Cheung Sha Wan wholesale market complex - phase I	100
2046GI	Government facilities at the Chek Lap Kok new airport-studies and investigations	214
2049GI	Consultancy for Operational Windshear Warning System and advance site investigations	7,344
2136GK	Immigration, Fire Services and Customs & Excise facilities at the River Trade Terminal, in Area 38, Tuen Mun	9,668
2001AX	Consultants' fees for feasibility investigations and design and major in-house investigations for PADS related civil engineering projects (block allocation subhead)	65
	Subtotal	27,417

Signature _____

Name in block letters LEE SHING SEE

Post Title Secretary for Works

Date 14 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB048

Question Serial No.

1157

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-2001

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

Head : Loan Fund Head 276 - Water Supply Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : What is the progress of the water quality improvement project financed under the loan to the Guangdong Provincial People's Government? What is the scheduled date of commencement of the relevant works? When is the water quality expected to have real improvement?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP

Reply : The loan to Guangdong is for the financing of the construction of a new closed aqueduct to replace the existing open channel system for conveying water from Dongjiang to Hong Kong. Following completion of the detailed design, tendering and land resumption for the works are now in progress. It is anticipated that construction of the new aqueduct will commence in June this year. The new aqueduct has a 2½ year construction programme. There will be real improvement to the quality of raw water supplied to Hong Kong upon the commissioning of the new aqueduct project at the end of 2002. Before this, other water quality improvement projects implemented include a biological nitrification plant at Shenzhen Reservoir and large scale desludging to remove the undesirable deposits from the reservoir bed. The water samples at the reception point on the Hong Kong side have already shown improvement in 1999.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	HUGH PHILLIPSON
Post Title	Director of Water Supplies
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau
Serial No.

WB049

Question
Serial No.

1216

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

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title) : 841 - Minor consultancy studies

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Why does the estimated expenditure on minor consultancy studies under Subhead 841 increase substantially to more than a double of last year's expenditure? Please provide a detailed explanation on this Subhead.

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The increased estimate for 2000-01 of Subhead 841 (i.e. from \$750,000 in 1999-2000 to \$1,748,000 in 2000-01) is to cover one existing consultancy and two new consultancy studies. Details are explained below:

Current Consultancy

Engagement of Reinforced Fill Engineering Expert

An international reinforced fill engineering expert is engaged to assist in the assessment of proprietary products to be used in permanent reinforced fill structures and slopes in Hong Kong. The consultancy is due to end in 2001, and the estimated expenditure is \$750,000 for the Year 1999-2000 and \$648,000 for the Year 2000-01.

New Consultancies

(a) Employment of Expert for Production of Reinforced Fill Design Guide

This new consultancy is to engage specialists to update the current Hong Kong Standard on Reinforced Fill to allow for products and systems employing new technology, and to provide more construction guidance on reinforced fill structures and slopes. The estimated expenditure of this consultancy is \$700,000 for the Year 2000-01.

(b) Employment of Experts for Research on Concrete Technology

To improve concrete quality in Hong Kong, specialists will need to be employed to investigate into prediction of temperature rise and its effect on large-pour concrete, chloride diffusion tests, improvement of tests for alkaline aggregate reaction, use of micro-silica in high-strength concrete and changing concrete cube curing temperature. The estimated expenditure is \$400,000 for the Year 2000-01.

Signature

Name in block letters

Y. C. LO

Post Title

Director of Civil Engineering

Date

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB050

Question Serial No.

1217

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

- Question : (a) Please provide figures on the number of private slopes studied, Dangerous Hillside Orders issued, and prosecution arising from non-compliance with the orders in the past 3 years. Will prosecution be made upon the expiry of the date specified in the Order? If not, what are the enforcement criteria?
- (b) How much resources will be allocated for the work on upgrading of dangerous slopes? How many slope upgrading works are expected to be carried out in 2000?
- (c) Computerised Slope Information System (SIS) has been established and information in the SIS has been available on the Internet since March 1999. Please provide figures on the number of browsers per month, the expenditure on setting up the system, and staff and expenditure required to maintain the system per month.

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : (a) The numbers of private slopes studied under the Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme, and DH Orders issued and prosecution cases instigated by the Building Authority (BA) over the past three years are given below:

Year	Number of private slopes studied	Number of DH Orders issued by the BA	Number of prosecution cases instigated by the BA
1997	350	178	0
1998	400	356	1
1999	291	204	0
Total	1041	738	1

If private owners fail to comply with a DH Order by the date specified in the Order without providing any reasonable excuse, the BA will give a reminder to the owners that the Government will take prosecution action against them if they do not carry out the works required under the DH Order. If the owners continue to ignore the reminder, they may be prosecuted by the BA under Section 40(1B) of the Buildings Ordinance; the BA may also carry out the necessary works on behalf of the owners and recover from the owners the cost of such works.

- (b) Between 2000 and 2010, about \$8,700 million (at March 1999 price level) will be spent on upgrading 2,500 substandard government slopes and safety screening of 3,000 private slopes. In 2000/2001, \$925 million will be allocated for the upgrading of 250 substandard government slopes and the studying of 300 private slopes.
- (c) The development cost of the computerized Slope Information System (SIS) is \$6 million. The system has 14 workstations. The stations are widely used by government departments, consultants and the public after its launching in September 1998. The average monthly enquiries are 43,000 for the last 6 months.

The cost of development of the Internet version of the system is \$0.87 million. The number of visitors per month accessing the Hong Kong Slope Safety website is 1,500.

A Technical Officer (Geotechnical) is responsible for the normal operation of the system. The monthly non-staff expenditure of the system, including hardware maintenance and cost of the lease line provided by the Internet Service Provider, is about \$37,000.

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

Bureau
Serial No.

WB051

Question
Serial No.

1251

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

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

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

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

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

This year, there has been \$230,800,000¹ included in the approved commitments and estimated 1999-2000 expenditures for various consultations by just Civil Engineering Department alone.

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

1	Subhead(Code)	Item(Code)	Approved commitment (\$ '000)
	700	524	115,500
		525	41,700
		526	73,600
			<hr/> 230,800

Asked by : Hon Christine LOH

...../2

Reply : The amount of \$230,800,000 refers to the approved commitment for completion of the three items 524, 525 and 526, which span over several years. The estimated expenditure for these three items in 1999-2000 is \$61,822,000 and \$10,037,000 in 2000-01.

The main criteria for contracting out the services under the above three items include –

- (a) the project requires specialist input which is not available from the government departments, for example the international experts for independent landslide investigations and legal experts for the correct interpretation of the legal provision in the land documents in the identification of the maintenance responsibility of slopes;
- (b) the project is required to complete urgently in a short period of time when the government departments do not have sufficient in-house resources to meet the programme. Consultants are more flexible and can mobilize and demobilize their resources quickly; and
- (c) the workload of the project can fluctuate considerably, for example being driven by the occurrence of landslides, when the cost of deploying in-house staff to stand-by for such work would have been very high.

In contracting out services, we put great emphasis on the issue of ‘getting value for money’. In selecting the consultants, the cost-effectiveness of their study methodology is a key item to consider. During the course of the project, we take part in a joint review with the consultants to examine means to streamline the methodology and arrangements to improve cost-effectiveness in the light of the experience gained. We assess the performance of the consultants regularly by means of the Consultants’ Appraisal System. The results of the appraisal have significant bearing on consultants’ future bidding.

When these consultancies are completed, government staff will continue to undertake the tasks, with the benefit of the skill and experience gained from these consultancies. For instance, item 526 (the consultancy for identifying the maintenance responsibility of man-made slopes) was substantially completed in this financial year. A team of surveyors and lawyers in the Lands Department, which has managed the consultancy for the last three years, will continue to identify maintenance responsibility of newly-formed or modified slopes in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y. C. LO

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____

17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB052

Question Serial No.

1261

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

Head: 56 Subhead (No. & title) : 700

Programme: (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Works

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

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 \$21,130,000 included in the approved commitments and estimated 1999-2000 expenditures for various consultations by just Government Secretariat: Planning and Lands Bureau and Works Bureau 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	523	5,000
	525	3,000
	531	2,500
	538	5,000
	539	5,630
		<hr/>
		21,130

Asked by : The Honourable Christine Loh

Reply : To ensure that the Government gets value for money, we secure the required quality and output of the consultancy services at the best possible fee level. To enable us to achieve this value for money objective, we take into account both the qualitative (e.g. the experience, expertise and methodology) and price aspects in selecting a consultant for undertaking the study. In practice, we require consultants to submit their proposals in two separate sealed envelopes, one for the technical proposals on quality aspects and the other for the fee proposal. The technical proposals are assessed and ranked first, using a pre-determined marking scheme. Only bids which are assessed to be technically competent would be considered further. This is to ensure that the quality of services to be provided is acceptable. After the technical bids have been assessed and ranked, the fee proposals from the bidding consultants are opened. The fee proposals are then combined with the technical assessments to determine the winning bid on the basis of a pre-determined system of evaluation and weighting. This combined quality and price scoring method ensures that we get the best value for money in our procurement of consultancy services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LEE SHING SEE

Post Title _____ Secretary for Works

Date _____ 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

WB053

Question Serial No.

1274

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 39 Drainage Services Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Works

Question : Please provide a list of the titles, ranks and duties of the 11 posts created under Programme (1).

Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The 11 posts to be created in 2000-01 are :

- 1 Engineer
- 1 Senior Inspector of Works
- 1 Inspector of Works
- 1 Assistant Inspector of Works
- 1 Technical Officer
- 1 Survey Officer (Quantity)
- 2 Works Supervisors I
- 2 Works Supervisors II
- 1 Assistant Clerical Officer

11

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

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

Table to Question 1298

Controlling Officer	Head	Original Estimate \$M A	Revised Estimate 99-00 \$M B	Over/(Under) Expenditure \$M C=B-A	% C/A	Main Reasons
DArchS	702	368.4	357.1	(11.3)	(3.1)	This is mainly due to d Air Traffic Control procurement of air meteorological equipme construction works.
	703	7,597.1	7,514.4	(82.7)	(1.1)	This is mainly due to ICAC Headquarters at Point and Central Gover the delay in procure equipment for improvem operational facilities.
	711	224.2	213.5	(10.7)	(4.8)	This is due to program of District Headquarte Station in Tin Shui Wai.
	Total	8,189.7	8,085.0	(104.7)	(1.3)	
DCE	702	55.6	82.1	26.5	47.7	The increase is mainly in Hei Ling Chau typho entering of the previou hence expenditure being 99-00.
	705	1,219.0	1,203.4	(15.6)	(1.3)	This is due to change "Penny's Bay Reclamat the Theme Park project.

	711	49.8	22.7	(27.1)	(54.4)	This is due to : (a) lower consultancy fees due to the commencement of the construction of the Development near Central Valley and Development near Valley (b) lower contract prices for the Hung Hom Estates phase 1
	Total	1,324.4	1,308.2	(16.2)	(1.2)	
DDS	704	2,288.3	2,383.3	95.0	4.2	This is due to good progress of Central, Western and Valley stage I works.
DHy	702	147.1	336.0	188.9	128.4	The increase is mainly due to the finalisation of the supply of Lantau Fixed Crossing and more settlement of claims
	706	2,815.3	2,555.7	(259.6)	(9.2)	This is mainly due to the commencement of the 10, slow progress of Tuen Mun and delay in construction of Tolo Highway.
	711	125.2	73.7	(51.5)	(41.1)	This is mainly due to slow progress for construction of Hang Road flyover and Eastern Corridor.
	Total	3,087.6	2,965.4	(122.2)	(4.0)	
DTD	702	867.9	693.0	(174.9)	(20.2)	This is due to slow progress of improvement works and delay in settlement of reclamation.
	707	2,491.4	2,253.4	(238.0)	(9.6)	This is mainly due to programme changes of the in Sha Tin.
	711	605.6	789.8	184.2	30.4	This is due to good progress of development and detailed investigation for Trunk Road
	Total	3,964.9	3,736.2	(228.7)	(5.8)	
DWS	702	4.3	9.6	5.3	123.3	This is mainly due to settlement of contractual
	709	948.5	964.9	16.4	1.7	This is mainly due to Improvement to Tsuen water supply.
	711	1,484.6	1,599.8	115.2	7.8	This is mainly due to good water supply and Additional transfer facilities for Northeast New Territories
	Total	2,437.4	2,574.3	136.9	5.6	

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 704 : DrainageProgramme :Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage ServicesBureau Secretary : Secretary for WorksQuestion : Please provide details of Public Works Programme project 4059CD, including development plan, date of application for fund and completion date of the project.Asked by : Hon WONG Yung-kanReply : Item No. 4059CD – West Kowloon Drainage Improvement Stage 2 Phase 2 and Stage 3 comprises the construction of :-

Stage 2 Phase 2 – Tai Hang Tung Storage Scheme and Kai Tak Transfer Scheme;
 Stage 3 Phase 1 – Drainage improvement works in Yau Ma Tei and Sham Shui Po; and
 Stage 3 Phase 2 – Drainage improvement works in Yau Yat Tsuen, Ho Man Tin and Kowloon Tong

The works under this \$2,131M project form an essential part of an overall scheme to resolve the flooding problem in Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei, Sham Shui Po, Yau Yat Tsuen, Ho Man Tin and Kowloon Tong. Our plan for funding application and implementation of the works are listed in the following table :-

Works Package	Time for funding application	Completion Date
Stage 2 Phase 2	May 2000	mid 2004
Stage 3 Phase 1	May 2000	mid 2007
Stage 3 Phase 2	mid 2003	end 2007

Signature _____
 Name in block letters J. Collier
 Post Title Director of Drainage Services
 Date 15 March 2000