

( 重訂本 )

立法會  
*Legislative Council*

立法會 CB(3)42/99-00 號文件

1999 年 10 月 8 日內務委員會會議文件

定於 1999 年 10 月 13 日立法會會議上提出的質詢

提問者：

- |      |        |              |
|------|--------|--------------|
| (1)  | 吳亮星議員  | (口頭答覆) (已撤回) |
| (2)  | 梁耀忠議員  | (口頭答覆)       |
| (3)  | 陳婉嫻議員  | (口頭答覆)       |
| (4)  | 劉皇發議員  | (口頭答覆)       |
| (5)  | 丁午壽議員  | (口頭答覆)       |
| (6)  | 何鍾泰議員  | (口頭答覆)       |
| (7)  | 李啓明議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (8)  | 陸恭蕙議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (9)  | 陳榮燦議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (10) | 張文光議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (11) | 劉慧卿議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (12) | 梁劉柔芬議員 | (書面答覆)       |
| (13) | 黃宜弘議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (14) | 譚耀宗議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (15) | 楊孝華議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (16) | 單仲偕議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (17) | 陳國強議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (18) | 楊耀忠議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (19) | 呂明華議員  | (書面答覆)       |
| (20) | 李華明議員  | (書面答覆)       |

註 :

NOTE :

# 議員將採用這種語言提出質詢

# Member will ask the question in this language

**(Revised)**

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. CB(3) 42/99-00

**Paper for the House Committee meeting  
on 8 October 1999**

**Questions scheduled for the  
Legislative Council meeting on 13 October 1999**

Questions by:

- |      |                        |                          |
|------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1)  | Hon NG Leung-sing      | (Oral reply) (Withdrawn) |
| (2)  | Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung    | (Oral reply)             |
| (3)  | Hon CHAN Yuen-han      | (Oral reply)             |
| (4)  | Hon LAU Wong-fat       | (Oral reply)             |
| (5)  | Hon Kenneth TING       | (Oral reply)             |
| (6)  | Ir Dr Hon HO Chung-tai | (Oral reply)             |
| (7)  | Hon LEE Kai-ming       | (Written reply)          |
| (8)  | Hon Christine LOH      | (Written reply)          |
| (9)  | Hon CHAN Wing-chan     | (Written reply)          |
| (10) | Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong   | (Written reply)          |
| (11) | Hon Emily LAU          | (Written reply)          |
| (12) | Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG   | (Written reply)          |
| (13) | Dr Hon Philip WONG     | (Written reply)          |
| (14) | Hon TAM Yiu-chung      | (Written reply)          |
| (15) | Hon Howard YOUNG       | (Written reply)          |
| (16) | Hon SIN Chung-kai      | (Written reply)          |
| (17) | Hon CHAN Kwok-keung    | (Written reply)          |
| (18) | Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung    | (Written reply)          |
| (19) | Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah    | (Written reply)          |
| (20) | Hon Fred LI            | (Written reply)          |

註 :

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#(1) 吳亮星議員 (口頭答覆)

關於中小型企業特別信貸計劃，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 有否評估該計劃在未來 12 個月可提供擔保的新貸款金額；
- (二) 有否評估該計劃曾否被濫用，以及該計劃在協助中小型企業資金周轉方面的成效；及
- (三) 有否考慮制訂協助中小型企業融資的長遠方案；若有，詳情為何？

(1) Hon NG Leung-sing (Oral Reply)

Regarding the Special Finance Scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises (“SMEs”), will the Government inform this Council whether:

- (a) it has assessed the amount of new loans for which the Scheme can provide guarantees in the next 12 months;
- (b) it has assessed if the Scheme had been abused, as well as the effectiveness of the Scheme in improving the liquidity position of SMEs; and
- (c) it has considered formulating a long-term scheme to help SMEs in financing, if so; the details of that?

#(2) 梁耀忠議員 (口頭答覆)

當局於今年 1 月向本會透露，希望設立 (一) 個系統全面收集來自不同機構有關自殺個案的資料。就此，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 該系統現時的進展為何；當局曾否利用該系統所蒐集的資料分析自殺行為與經濟不景及與失業的關係；若有，分析結果為何；
- (二) 當局現時向失業人士提供甚麼服務，以防止他們自殺；有否評估該等服務的成效；若沒有提供該等服務，原因為何；及
- (三) 當局現時向自殺人士的家人提供甚麼服務；有否評估該等服務的成效；若沒有提供該等服務，原因為何？

(2) Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung(Oral Reply)

The authorities revealed to this Council in January this year that they hoped to establish a system for collecting from various organisations comprehensive information on cases of suicide. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the progress with regard to the system; whether it has used the information collected by the system to analyse the relationship of suicidal behaviour to the economic downturn and unemployment; if so, of the findings;
- (b) the services currently provided to the unemployed to prevent them from committing suicide; whether it has assessed the effectiveness of these services; if such services are not available, of the reasons for that; and
- (c) the services currently provided to the families of persons who have committed suicide; whether it has assessed the effectiveness of these services; if such services are not available, of the reasons for that?

#(3) 陳婉嫻議員 (口頭答覆)

《基本法》第三十六條賦予香港居民有依法享受社會福利的權利。據悉，新來港定居的香港居民申請編配公屋及綜合社會保障援助（下稱“綜援”），須受居港年期限制的規定。在公屋編配方面，申請人的家庭，須有過半數成員已居港滿七年；在申請綜援方面，申請人則須已居港滿四十四星期。就此，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 政府有何法理依據規定上述人士在申請編配公屋及綜援時，須受此等居港年期的限制；及
- (二) 有否評估這些規定是否牴觸《基本法》第三十六條；若評估結果為有所牴觸，政府打算何時修改此等規限；若認為不會牴觸，理據為何？

(3) Hon CHAN Yuen-han(Oral Reply)

Article 36 of the Basic Law stipulates that Hong Kong residents shall have the right to social welfare in accordance with law. It is learnt that newly arrived Hong Kong residents are subject to residence requirements when applying for public housing allocation and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (“CSSA”). In respect of public housing allocation, the majority of the applicant’s family members must have lived in Hong Kong for seven years; for CSSA applications, the applicant must have resided in Hong Kong for 44 weeks. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the legal basis for subjecting such persons to residence requirements in their applications for public housing and CSSA; and
- (b) whether it has assessed if the above requirements are in breach of Article 36 of the Basic Law; if the outcome of the assessment is affirmative, of the time it will amend such requirements; if the outcome is in the negative, of the justifications for that?

#(4) 劉皇發議員 (口頭答覆)

現時，承建商在道路工程及建築地盤使用很多以柴油作燃料的機器，例如挖土機、推土機、高壓風機及發電機等。該等機器在操作時產生大量黑煙，危害工人、行人及附近居民的健康。就此，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 目前有哪些法例管制該等機器排放過量黑煙，以及該等法例就排放過量黑煙的機器所作規定為何；及
- (二) 哪些部門負責執行有關法例；在過去 3 年，各有關部門就該等機器排放黑煙的情況進行了多少次巡查，而提出檢控的個案又有多少宗？

(4) Hon LAU Wong-fat(Oral Reply)

At present, diesel-driven machinery such as excavators, bulldozers, high pressure air-compressors and generators are widely used by contractors in road works and on construction sites. Such machinery emit a lot of smoke when they are in operation, causing health hazards to workers, passers-by and residents in the neighbourhood. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the legislation regulating the emission of excessive smoke from such machinery, and the legislative provisions governing smoky machinery; and
- (b) the departments responsible for the enforcement of the relevant legislation; and the number of inspections carried out by the departments concerned in relation to emissions of such machinery, as well as the number of prosecutions instituted, over the past three years?

#(5) 丁午壽議員 (口頭答覆)

據報，上月颱風約克襲港後翌日，7萬多輛貨櫃車趕往葵涌貨櫃碼頭交收貨櫃，導致葵涌及荃灣一帶的交通嚴重擠塞。就此，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 會否盡快檢討成員包括運輸署、警方及貨櫃業代表的貨櫃碼頭交通聯絡小組的運作模式和啓動時間，以及研究如何提高該小組的運作效率；
- (二) 有何措施避免在颱風過後出現同類的交通擠塞情況；及
- (三) 有否計劃與內地有關部門討論跨境貨運需求，以及研究發展貨運鐵路，藉以減輕道路網所承受的貨運負荷？

(5) Hon Kenneth TING(Oral Reply)

It was reported that more than 70 000 container trucks rushed to the Kwai Chung Container Terminal to effect delivery of containers the day following the passage of Typhoon York through Hong Kong last month, resulting in serious traffic congestion in Kwai Chung and Tsuen Wan districts. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) whether it will review as soon as possible the operational mode and activation time of the Container Port Traffic Liaison Group which has representatives from the Transport Department, the Police and the trade, and study how to enhance the operational efficiency of the Group;
- (b) of the measures in place to prevent the recurrence of similar traffic congestion after the passage of a typhoon; and
- (c) whether it has plans to discuss with the relevant Mainland authorities the demand for cross-border freight transport, and to conduct a study on the development of freight rail to ease the burden of freight transport on road networks?

#(6) 何鍾泰議員 (口頭答覆)

上月颱風約克襲港時，數幢位於灣仔的政府辦公室大樓的玻璃幕牆受到嚴重破壞，根據報章報道，因而破裂的幕牆玻璃為數約 400 多幅。就此，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 現時有何法例及守則，規管大廈玻璃幕牆的安裝及維修事宜；
- (二) 現行法例有否規定大廈業主安排定期檢查玻璃幕牆；及
- (三) 當局會否考慮成立小組，評估本港氣候對玻璃幕牆的影響、玻璃幕牆應採用的設計、物料及安裝工序，並檢討有關的標準？

(6) Ir Dr Hon HO Chung-tai(Oral Reply)

When Typhoon York hit Hong Kong last month, the curtain walls of several government office towers in Wan Chai were seriously damaged. It was reported in the press that around 400 patches of the curtain walls were broken as a result. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the existing legislation or codes for regulating the installation and maintenance of curtain walls on buildings;
- (b) whether existing legislation requires owners of buildings to arrange for regular inspection of the curtain walls; and
- (c) whether it will consider establishing a task force to assess the effects of Hong Kong's climate on curtain walls, the designs and materials to be used and the installation procedures for curtain walls, and to review the relevant standards?

#(7) 李啓明議員 (書面答覆)

據報，今年暑假有超過 10 名在學青年在受僱擔任暑期工期間因工受傷。就此，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 有否研究是否須盡速修訂有關法例，禁止僱主讓未經訓練的工人操作具危險性的機械，以及修訂須由受過適當訓練工人操作的機械的類別；若在研究後認為無須在現階段對法例作出修訂，原因為何；及
- (二) 有否計劃修訂法例，加重對沒有向僱員提供適當安全設備的僱主施加的刑罰；若否，原因為何？

(7) Hon LEE Kai-ming (Written Reply)

It was reported that during the summer vacation this year, more than 10 students were injured at work while being employed as summer job workers. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether:

- (a) it has examined if there is any urgent need for amending the relevant legislation to prohibit employers from allowing untrained workers to operate machinery involving a certain degree of danger, and to revise the categories of machinery which must be operated by properly trained workers; if legislative amendments are considered unnecessary at this stage, of the reasons for that; and
- (b) it has any plan to introduce legislative amendments to impose heavier penalty on employers who fail to provide proper safety equipment for their employees; if not, of the reasons for that?

#(8) Hon Christine LOH (Written Reply)

At the meeting of the Home Affairs Panel of the Legislative Council on 20 December 1996, the Administration informed the Panel that it had compiled a list of about 1 000 private buildings with potential fire and safety hazards for building management improvement. The Administration also committed on 5 March 1997 to provide the Legislative Council with an updated list each year. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the respective numbers of such buildings that have since been demolished, undertaken improvement to the satisfaction of the Administration, or remain on the list;
- (b) the number of buildings added onto the list since 1996; and
- (c) the action that the Administration will take to exhaust the list and the estimated time for this being achieved?

(8) 陸恭蕙議員 (書面答覆)

在 1996 年 12 月 20 日的立法局民政事務委員會會議上，政府當局告知事務委員會已制訂一份大廈名單，載列全港約 1 000 幢有潛在火警危險及安全問題而需要改善樓宇管理的私人大廈。政府當局亦於 1997 年 3 月 5 日承諾每年會向立法會呈交經更新的大廈名單。就此，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 在該等大廈中，其後已拆卸、已進行改善工程並符合政府當局的要求，以及現時仍列於該名單的分別為數多少；
- (二) 自 1996 年後有多少幢大廈被列入該名單中；及
- (三) 政府當局將會採取甚麼行動促使該等大廈的問題獲得解決，從而無需備存該名單，以及預計該目標何時達到？

#(9) 陳榮燦議員 (書面答覆)

政府可否告知本會，自 1996 年至今：

- (一) 勞工處每年接獲涉及外籍家庭傭工懷孕問題的查詢個案數目；及
- (二) 每年涉及外籍家庭傭工懷孕問題並經由勞工處調停的勞資糾紛個案數目，以及當中有多少個案交由勞資審裁處裁決？

(9) Hon CHAN Wing-chan (Written Reply)

Will the Government inform this Council of the annual statistics in respect of the following since 1996:

- (a) the number of enquiries received by the Labour Department in relation to pregnancy of foreign domestic helpers; and
- (b) the number of labour disputes in connection with pregnancy of foreign domestic helpers that were mediated by the Labour Department and, among them, the number of those which were filed with the Labour Tribunal for adjudication?

#(10) 張文光議員 (書面答覆)

就獲得大學資助委員會資助的專上院校向新生預先收取學費事宜，政府可否告知本會：

(一) 是否知悉：

- (i) 各院校在上學年及本學年所訂的新生繳交學費限期為何；
- (ii) 各院校如何釐定新生於學年開始前須繳交的學費的百分比；及關於向已繳交全數或部分學費但在學年開始時已申請退學的新生發還款項事宜所訂的規則；
- (iii) 在上學年度及本學年度，各院校分別有多少名已繳交全部或部分學費的新生於學年開始前申請退學；不予退還的學費收入總額分別為何；及

(二) 當局會否促請各院校向於學年開始前已申請退學的新生退還已繳交的學費？

(10) Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong (Written Reply)

With regard to the advance collection of tuition fees from new students by the institutions funded by the University Grants Committee, will the Government inform this Council:

(a) whether it knows:

- (i) the due dates for new students to pay their tuition fees as required by each institution in the past and current academic year;
- (ii) how these institutions determine the percentage of tuition fees to be paid by new students before an academic year begins; and the rules set for refund of the tuition fees fully or partially paid by new students who have applied for withdrawal before the academic year begins;
- (iii) the respective numbers of new students who had paid their tuition fees fully or partially but applied for withdrawal before the new academic year began in the past and current academic year in each of these institutions; their respective total amounts of income from the non-refundable tuition fee; and

(b) whether it will urge these institutions to effect refund of the tuition fees paid by new students who have applied for withdrawal before the new academic year begins?

#(11) 劉慧卿議員 (書面答覆)

律政司上月以首長級薪級表第 3 點的薪酬聘請了一名特別顧問，專責處理與立法會有關的事務。就此，行政機關可否告知本會：

- (一) 聘請該名顧問的原因為何；
- (二) 該名顧問的職責為何；及
- (三) 該名顧問的職責範圍是否只限於處理與立法會有關的事務，以及他的工作的性質主要是公關工作抑或提供法律意見？

(11) Hon Emily LAU (Written Reply)

The Department of Justice appointed last month a special adviser remunerated at point 3 of the Directorate pay scale to deal specially with matters related to the Legislative Council. In this connection, will the Executive Authorities inform this Council:

- (a) of the reasons for appointing such an adviser;
- (b) of the duties of the adviser; and
- (c) whether the scope of the duties of the adviser is confined to handling matters related to the Legislative Council and whether he is mainly responsible for public relations or providing legal advice?

#(12) 梁劉柔芬議員（書面答覆）

政府可否告知本會：

- （一）目前普通科醫生及各類醫療輔助人員，包括註冊護士、藥劑師、職業治療師、物理治療師及視光學師等的入職前培訓成本分別為何；政府及學員分別負擔成本的百分比為何；及
- （二）有否把上述由公帑支付的培訓成本與英國、美國、加拿大、澳洲等先進國家的相關公帑支出作一比較；若有，比較結果為何；若否，原因為何及有否計劃進行有關比較；若有計劃，何時進行？

(12) Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG (Written Reply)

Will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the respective current costs of pre-employment training for general medical practitioners and paramedical personnel, including registered nurses, pharmacists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and optometrists; and the percentages of the costs shared between the Government and these trainees respectively; and
- (b) whether comparison has been made between the above-mentioned training costs borne by public funds and the relevant public expenditure incurred in advanced countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia; if so, of the results of the comparison; if not, of the reasons for that and whether there is any plan to make such comparison; if there is such plan, of the time such comparison will take place?

#(13) Dr Hon Philip WONG (Written Reply)

In respect of the Hong Kong Futures Exchange's plan to replace the open outcry system for trading Hang Seng Index Futures and Options contracts with an electronic order matching system, will the Government inform this Council whether it knows:

- (a) if comprehensive stress tests on the new system have been conducted; if so, of the problems uncovered and whether and how they were solved; if the problems are yet to be solved, when and how they will be solved; and
- (b) if a contingency plan has been formulated to cope with failure of the system during live operation?

(13) 黃宜弘議員 (書面答覆)

關於香港期貨交易所（“期交所”）計劃以電子對盤系統，取代公開叫價方式處理恒生指數期貨及期權合約買賣事宜，政府可否告知本會，是否知悉：

- （一）期交所有否對新系統進行全面的壓力測試；若有，所發現的問題為何；該等問題是否已獲解決，而解決方法為何；若問題仍未解決，則何時和如何解決該等問題；及
- （二）期交所有否制訂應變計劃，以應付系統在實際運作時出現故障的情況？

#(14) 譚耀宗議員 (書面答覆)

本年 8 月底，颱風襲港引致本港多處地點發生山泥傾瀉。大嶼山嶼南路部分路段亦因此原因須封閉多天，導致大嶼山南北交通嚴重受阻。就此，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 現時大嶼山嶼南路及東涌道沿線兩旁有多少個高風險斜坡；
- (二) 當局有否定期勘察該等斜坡；有否計劃展開全面的斜坡維修工程；若否，原因為何；及
- (三) 當局會否考慮提前興建大蠔灣至梅窩的南北連接路，以改善大嶼山的南北交通及促進大嶼山的發展；若否，原因為何？

(14) Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Written Reply)

An onslaught of typhoon on Hong Kong at the end of August this year caused landslides in many parts of the territory. Certain sections of South Lantau Road on Lantau Island had to be closed for this reason for a number of days, causing serious disruption to the flow of traffic between the southern and northern parts of Lantau. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the existing number of high risk slopes along both sides of South Lantau Road and Tung Chung Road on Lantau;
- (b) whether these slopes are regularly inspected; and whether there is any plan to carry out comprehensive slope maintenance works; if not, of the reasons for that; and
- (c) whether it will consider advancing the construction of the north-south road link between Tai Ho Wan and Mui Wo, so as to improve the flow of traffic between the southern and northern parts of Lantau as well as facilitate the development of Lantau; if not, of the reasons for that?

#(15) Hon Howard YOUNG (Written Reply)

At present, most Octopus Add Value Machines (“AVMs”) are installed at stations of the Kowloon-Canton Railway and the Mass Transit Railway, ferry piers and in 24-hour convenience stores. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether it knows if AVMs have been or will be installed at other places; if so, of the details of that?

(15) 楊孝華議員 (書面答覆)

現時，八達通增值機大部分裝置在九廣鐵路與地下鐵路的車站、渡輪碼頭及 24 小時營業的便利店內。就此，政府可否告知本會，是否知悉八達通增值機會否或會否裝置在其他地點；若然，詳情為何？

#(16) Hon SIN Chung-kai (Written Reply)

In respect of the Employees Retraining Scheme, will the Government inform this Council of the following in each of the past three years:

- (a) the amount of money appropriated to each training body listed under the Scheme for organising retraining programmes; and
- (b) the total amount of instruction hours of, money spent on and the total number of retrainees in each course?

(16) 單仲偕議員 (書面答覆)

關於僱員再培訓計劃，政府可否告知本會，在過去 3 年：

- (一) 每年撥予該計劃下各個培訓機構以供開辦再培訓計劃的款額分別為何；及
- (二) 在各年開辦的課程中，每個課程的培訓時數、開支總額及參加的再培訓學員人數分別為何？

#(17) 陳國強議員 (書面答覆)

政府可否告知本會，是否知悉：

- (一) 自 1996 年至今，每年由各政府部門提供支援服務的法定機構或委員會，分別向香港賽馬會及政府獎券基金提出了多少宗撥款申請；涉及的項目性質為何；其中有多少宗申請獲得批准，以及獲批撥款超過 4 百萬元的個案的撥款金額分別為何；及
- (二) 香港賽馬會和津貼及政府獎券基金諮詢委員會根據甚麼準則及程序審批該等撥款申請？

(17) Hon CHAN Kwok-keung (Written Reply)

Will the Government inform this Council whether it knows:

- (a) the respective number of funding applications made in each year to the Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Lotteries Fund by statutory bodies or boards and committees receiving support services from various government departments since 1996; the nature of the items involved; the respective numbers of successful cases among these applications and those with grants exceeding four million dollars; and
- (b) the criteria and procedure adopted by the Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Subventions and Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee for examining and approving these funding applications?

#(18) 楊耀忠議員 (書面答覆)

關於教育署在進行中六收生期間，向中五畢業生發放中六學額空缺資料的安排，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 教育署根據何種準則，決定邀請哪些互聯網服務供應商（“供應商”）競投在互聯網上提供中六學額空缺資料的服務，以及有多少個供應商曾獲邀競投；教育署會否考慮在明年邀請所有持牌供應商競投該項服務；若否，原因為何；
- (二) 當教育署在委聘有關供應商時有否要求他們注意廣告所展示的公司形象；教育署有否收到各學校當局對委聘該公司提供有關服務的意見；若有，詳情為何，當中有否關於宗教及婦女團體對該供應商所製作的宣傳廣告作出帶有歧視成分的投訴；
- (三) 透過互聯網提供的服務有否出現因查詢過多而導致網絡擠塞及資料傳送緩慢的情況；若有，當局明年將會採取甚麼改善措施；及
- (四) 有否檢討是次透過互聯網及傳呼機提供中六學額空缺資料的成效；若有，檢討結果為何，以及有何地方須予改善？

(18) Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung (Written Reply)

Regarding the dissemination of information on the availability of Secondary 6 (“S6”) places by the Education Department (“ED”) to Secondary 5 graduates during the S6 Admission period, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the criteria adopted by the ED for deciding on the Internet service providers (“ISPs”) to be invited to bid for the provision of service for disseminating information on the availability of S6 places through the Internet, and the number of ISPs invited to bid this year; whether the ED will consider inviting all licensed ISPs to bid for the provision of such service next year; if not, of the reasons for that;
- (b) whether the ED, in commissioning the ISP concerned to provide the above service, has requested it to pay attention to the corporate image projected by its advertisements; whether comments have been received from schools regarding the commissioning of that ISP for the provision of such service; if so, of the details of that, and whether there have been complaints by religious and women organizations that the advertisements are discriminatory;
- (c) whether the network was jammed and the transmission of data slowed down on the Internet as a result of a flood of enquiries; if so, of the improvement measures that will be put in place next year; and
- (d) whether it has reviewed the effectiveness of disseminating information on the availability of S6 places through the Internet and pagers; if so, of the results of the review and the areas that need improvements?

#(19) 呂明華議員 (書面答覆)

鑑於香港不能完全排除發生強烈地震的可能性，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 現時，除了公路和鐵路外，有否規定本港的多層大廈和其他大型建築物的結構能承受強度達黎克特制 5 至 6 級的地震；若否，原因為何；當局是否基於多層大廈的結構設計已顧及風力荷載的因素，而沒有作出有關規定；及
- (二) 會否考慮修訂有關法例或作業守則，規定新建的大型或多層建築物的結構須足以承受強度達黎克特制 5 至 6 級的地震；若否，原因為何？

(19) Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah (Written Reply)

As the possibility of serious earthquakes occurring in Hong Kong cannot be ruled out entirely, will the Government inform this Council whether:

- (a) apart from highways and railways, high-rise building blocks and other large buildings in Hong Kong are required structurally to be capable of sustaining the impact of earthquakes with strengths at point five to six on the Richter scale; if not, of the reasons for that; and whether such a requirement is dispensed with on the grounds that wind loads are already factored into the structural design of high-rise blocks; and
- (b) it will consider amending the relevant legislation or codes of practice to provide that the structure of newly built large buildings or high-rise building blocks should be capable of sustaining the impact of earthquakes with strengths at point five to six on the Richter scale; if not, of the reasons for that?

#(20) 李華明議員 (書面答覆)

據報，在過去數月，中央人民政府曾拒絕美國戰艦在香港海域停留，以及天主教教宗擬訪問香港的申請。據悉，由於梵蒂岡與台灣保持外交關係，因此教宗訪港牽涉外交問題。就此，政府可否告知本會：

- (一) 香港特區政府曾否在中央就上述申請作出決定前與外交部聯絡並提交意見；若有，曾於何時進行聯絡及所提交的意見詳情為何；
- (二) 外交部有否告知香港特區政府上述申請不獲接納的原因；若有，外交部所述的原因為何；及
- (三) 自香港回歸中國以來，曾否有與台灣維持外交關係的國家元首或官員來港訪問；若有，請列出該等人士的名字及他們訪港的日期？

(20) Hon Fred LI Wah-ming (Written Reply)

It is reported that in the past few months, the Central People's Government has rejected applications for warships of the United States to stop over in Hong Kong waters and the Pope's proposed visit to Hong Kong. It is noted that as the Vatican is maintaining diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the proposed visit to Hong Kong by the Pope involves foreign affairs. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether:

- (a) the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") Government had liaised with and presented views to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before the Central People's Government made decisions on the above applications; if so, of the time such liaison was made and the details of the views presented;
- (b) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed the HKSAR Government of the reasons for rejecting the applications; if so, of the reasons given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and
- (c) any visits to Hong Kong have been made by the heads or officials of states which are maintaining diplomatic relations with Taiwan since Hong Kong's reunification with China so, of a list of these visitors together with the dates of their visits; if to Hong Kong?