

(Translation)

Hon LEE Wing-tat wishes to raise the following questions at the special meeting of the LegCo Panel on Housing to discuss the building problems at Tung Chung Area 30 Phase 3:

1. When and how did the Housing Department (HD) find out that substandard steel bars were used at the Tung Chung Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) site? Was the problem brought to light immediately by the front-line staff supervising the project?
2. When did the Independent Commission Against Corruption take action to arrest those people suspected of being involved in the case? How many HD staff have been invited to assist in the investigation and interrogated respectively?
3. How can HD be sure that the batch of substandard steel bars only accounts for 2% to 3% of the total steel bars used on site? On what basis does it determine that the extent of the problem caused by the substandard steel bars is not serious? How could HD have accepted such a batch of substandard and faulty building materials?
4. As HD has yet to find out the distribution of the substandard steel bars, will it be a concern to HD that possible structural defects might result from those steels bars being concentrated in one or two of the HOS blocks under construction?
5. Will HD carry out reinforcement works to the four HOS blocks or take other remedial measures?
6. As faulty piles and, subsequently, substandard steel bars have been found at the same site which have manifested supervision problems on the part of HD, does it reflect that HD lacks a sense of crisis and there are loopholes in its inspection procedures?
7. If the steel bars have insufficient bearing capacity and tensile strength, will cracks appear in the buildings as a result of the exertion of direct force on the bars? Will such steel bars, if exposed to the air as a result of the appearance of the cracks, be easily oxidized which will in turn affect the life span of the buildings? If so, will any compensation be made by HD in respect of this?
8. Should the building problems affect the sales of the completed Tung Chung HOS flats and even result in a large number of vacant flats, what remedial measures will be taken by HD? Will HD consider converting the Tung Chung HOS flats into public rental flats?
9. Do the series of building quality defects in connection with public housing indicate that there are problems with the integrity and work attitude of HD's front-line staff? What measures will be taken by HD to deal with this situation?