

# Legislative Council

## Agenda

Wednesday 12 May 2021 at 11:00 am

### I. Laying of Papers on the Table of the Council

9 items of subsidiary legislation/other instrument and 5 other papers to be laid on the Table of the Council set out in **Appendix 1**

#### Member to address the Council

Hon Abraham SHEK

#### Paper

Supplemental Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Report No. 75 of the Director of Audit on the Results of Value for Money Audits (May 2021 — P.A.C. Report No. 75A)  
(Item 12 in Appendix 1)

### II. Questions

Members to ask 22 questions (6 for oral replies and 16 for written replies)

#### Questions for oral replies to be asked by

1. Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
(Prevention and early identification of child abuse cases)
2. Hon Michael TIEN  
(Popularization of electric vehicles)
3. Hon Mrs Regina IP  
(Development of topside properties at new railway stations)
4. Hon Vincent CHENG  
(Food assistance service)
5. Hon Steven HO  
(Plan of the Japanese Government to discharge nuclear wastewater into the sea)
6. Hon LAU Kwok-fan  
(Free cross-boundary broadcast of Mainland and Hong Kong television programmes)

#### Public officers to reply

Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
Under Secretary for Education

Secretary for the Environment

Secretary for Transport and Housing

Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Secretary for Food and Health

Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Contents of 22 questions, Members to ask such questions and public officers to reply set out in **Appendix 2**

### **III. Government Bill**

#### **Second Reading (debate to resume), consideration by committee of the whole Council and Third Reading**

Public Offices (Candidacy and Taking Up Offices) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2021 : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Amendment mover : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Amendments set out in LC Paper No. CB(3) 512/20-21 issued on 28 April 2021)

(Debate and voting arrangements set out in LC Paper No. CB(3) 546/20-21 issued on 10 May 2021)

### **IV. Government Motion**

#### **Proposed resolution under the Buildings Ordinance**

Mover : Secretary for Development

Wording of the motion : Appendix 3

### **V. Member's Motion on Subsidiary Legislation**

#### **Proposed resolution to extend the period for amending subsidiary legislation (L.N. 52 and L.N. 53 of 2021)**

Mover : Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan

Wording of the motion : Appendix 4

## VI. Members' Other Motions

### 1. Motion on “Driving the development of New Territories North with port economy”

Mover : Hon LAU Kwok-fan

Wording of the motion : Appendix 5

Amendment mover : Hon YIU Si-wing  
(Amendment set out in LC Paper No. CB(3) 541/20-21  
issued on 7 May 2021)

Public officers to attend : Secretary for the Environment  
Secretary for Development  
Under Secretary for the Environment  
Under Secretary for Development  
Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology  
Under Secretary for Transport and Housing

### 2. Motion on “Setting up a New Generation Fund to help the new generation in Hong Kong plan for the future”

Mover : Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan

Wording of the motion : Appendix 6

Public officers to attend : Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
Secretary for Home Affairs  
Under Secretary for Education

Clerk to the Legislative Council

## Council meeting of 12 May 2021

## Laying of Papers on the Table of the Council

| Subsidiary legislation/other instrument   | No.  |
|---|--|
| 1. <u>Dangerous Goods (Consignment by Air) (Safety) (Amendment) Regulation 2021</u>   | Legal Notice<br>55 of 2021                               |
| 2. <u>Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 (Amendment of Schedule 16) Order 2021</u>   | Legal Notice<br>56 of 2021                               |
| 3. <u>Telecommunications (Designation of Frequency Bands subject to Payment of Spectrum Utilization Fee) (Amendment) Order 2021</u>   | Legal Notice<br>57 of 2021                               |
| 4. <u>Telecommunications (Method for Determining Spectrum Utilization Fee) (Code Division Multiple Access Mobile Telecommunications Service) (Amendment) Regulation 2021</u>    | Legal Notice<br>58 of 2021                               |
| 5. <u>Telecommunications (Determining Spectrum Utilization Fees by Auction) (Amendment) Regulation 2021</u>   | Legal Notice<br>59 of 2021                               |
| 6. <u>Telecommunications (Method for Determining Spectrum Utilization Fee) (Spectrum for Auction) (Amendment) Regulation 2021</u>   | Legal Notice<br>60 of 2021                               |
| 7. <u>Telecommunications (Level of Spectrum Utilization Fee) (Administratively Assigned Spectrum) Regulation</u>  | Legal Notice<br>61 of 2021                               |
| 8. <u>Employees' Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 (Commencement) Notice</u>  | Legal Notice<br>62 of 2021                               |
| 9. <u>Ninth Technical Memorandum for Allocation of Emission Allowances in Respect of Specified Licences</u>   | Special<br>Supplement No. 5<br>to Gazette<br>No. 18/2021 |
| <b>Other papers</b>   |  |
| 10. <u>Language Fund<br/>Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2020 (including Report of the Director of Audit)</u><br>(to be presented by Secretary for Education) |  |

11. Student Activities Support Fund  
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2020 (including Report of the  
Director of Audit)  
(to be presented by Secretary for Education)
12. Supplemental Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Report No. 75 of the  
Director of Audit on the Results of Value for Money Audits  
(May 2021 — P.A.C. Report No. 75A)  
(to be presented by **Hon Abraham SHEK**, Chairman of the Public Accounts  
Committee, who **will address the Council** on this paper)
13. Report No. 16/20-21 of the House Committee on Consideration of Subsidiary  
Legislation and Other Instruments  
(to be presented by Hon Starry LEE, Chairman of the House Committee)
14. Report of the Bills Committee on Public Offices (Candidacy and Taking Up  
Offices) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2021  
(to be presented by Hon Tommy CHEUNG, Chairman of the Bills Committee)

## 22 questions to be asked at the Council meeting of 12 May 2021

|                                      | <b>Subject matters</b>  | <b>Public officers to reply</b>                                   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Questions for oral replies</b>    |   |   |
| 1                                    | Dr Hon Pierre CHAN<br><u>Prevention and early identification of child abuse cases</u>                                   | Secretary for Labour and Welfare<br>Under Secretary for Education |
| 2                                    | Hon Michael TIEN<br><u>Popularization of electric vehicles</u>  | Secretary for the Environment                                     |
| 3                                    | Hon Mrs Regina IP<br><u>Development of topside properties at new railway stations</u>                                   | Secretary for Transport and Housing                               |
| 4                                    | Hon Vincent CHENG<br><u>Food assistance service</u>   | Secretary for Labour and Welfare                                  |
| 5                                    | Hon Steven HO<br><u>Plan of the Japanese Government to discharge nuclear wastewater into the sea</u>                    | Secretary for Food and Health                                     |
| 6                                    | Hon LAU Kwok-fan<br><u>Free cross-boundary broadcast of Mainland and Hong Kong television programmes</u>                | Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development                   |
| <b>Questions for written replies</b> |   |   |
| 7                                    | Hon YUNG Hoi-yan<br><u>Assisting the development of young people in the Greater Bay Area</u>                            | Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs                 |
| 8                                    | Hon Martin LIAO<br><u>HKMC Annuity Plan</u>   | Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury                 |
| 9                                    | Hon Jeffrey LAM<br><u>Pursuing development in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area</u> | Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs                 |
| 10                                   | Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan<br><u>Burial services and facilities</u>   | Secretary for Food and Health                                     |
| 11                                   | Hon YIU Si-wing<br><u>Job creation</u>  | Secretary for the Civil Service                                   |
| 12                                   | Hon Starry LEE<br><u>Rights and interests of online shoppers</u>  | Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development                   |
| 13                                   | Hon Frankie YICK<br><u>Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement</u>  | Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development                   |
| 14                                   | Hon WONG Kwok-kin<br><u>Employees' compensation for contracting COVID-19 at work</u>                                    | Secretary for Labour and Welfare                                  |
| 15                                   | Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan<br><u>Prevention of child abuse</u>   | Secretary for Labour and Welfare                                  |
| 16                                   | Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-ki<br><u>Telephone deception cases</u>   | Secretary for Security  |
| 17                                   | Hon Wilson OR<br><u>Development projects in progress</u>  | Secretary for Development   |
| 18                                   | Hon KWOK Wai-keung<br><u>Coronavirus Disease 2019 testing services</u>  | Secretary for Food and Health                                     |
| 19                                   | Hon Holden CHOW<br><u>Issues of employees' rights and interests arising from the epidemic</u>                           | Secretary for Labour and Welfare                                  |
| 20                                   | Hon LUK Chung-hung<br><u>Traffic demand of Kowloon East</u>   | Secretary for Transport and Housing                               |
| 21                                   | Hon CHAN Han-pan<br><u>Vaccination for visitors to Hong Kong</u>  | Secretary for Food and Health                                     |
| 22                                   | Hon CHAN Chun-ying<br><u>Central Moneymarkets Unit</u>  | Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury                 |

Question 1  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Prevention and early identification of child abuse cases

Dr Hon Pierre CHAN to ask:

Recently, a court case in which a five-year-old girl died of being abused has aroused wide public concern about the issue of child abuse. A child protection organization pointed out that last year, due to the epidemic, schools suspended classes on a number of occasions and quite a number of parents worked from home or lost their jobs; as such, children and parents spent more time together, resulting in more conflicts between them and an increase in the number of assistance-seeking cases about child abuse. On the other hand, during class suspension periods, some parents were unable to stay home to take care of their young children, resulting in an increase in child neglect cases. Regarding prevention and early identification of child abuse cases, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it will require all school-based social workers, school principals and teachers (especially members of School Crisis Management Teams) to receive more comprehensive training (e.g. a course of a duration of not less than three days) on child protection and identification of child abuse cases, so as to help them identify and intervene in child abuse cases at an early stage;
- (2) as currently the epidemic has not been brought under complete control and schools have not fully resumed classes, of the measures put in place to step up child care support for parents or their relatives, so as to reduce child abuse incidents stemming from disciplining children and neglect; and
- (3) of the current considerations based on which policies on school-based social workers (including the manpower level) are formulated; whether it will, in the light of the differences between the various types of education institutions (including kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, and special schools) in terms of their nature and location (e.g. families in new towns needing more support), suitably increase the manpower of school-based social workers in the relevant education institutions, so as to help identify child abuse cases at an early stage?

Question 2  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Popularization of electric vehicles

Hon Michael TIEN to ask:

On promoting the popularization of electric vehicles (“EVs”), will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) given that there was only one EV in every 40 vehicles in the government fleet last year, whether it has assessed if the Government, with such a proportion, is able to take the lead in using EVs; if it has assessed and the outcome is in the negative, of the specific measures in place to raise the proportion and the implementation timetable;
- (2) given that as mentioned in the funding application submitted to this Council by the Government last month, only “not less than 30%” of the car parking spaces in the two public car parks planned to be built by the Government would be provided with EV charging facilities, whether it has assessed if the Government, with such a proportion, is able to set an example for public car parks operated by the private sector; if it has assessed and the outcome is in the negative, whether it will raise the proportion; and
- (3) given that while the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularization of Electric Vehicles (“the Roadmap”) has proposed a number of measures on the popularization of EVs, quite a number of government officers and private car owners have relayed that they lack the desire to switch to using EVs as ancillary facilities for EVs are inadequate (e.g. only a small number of public car parking spaces are provided with charging facilities, or such spaces are only provided with standard charging facilities), whether it has reviewed if the Roadmap has put forward solutions to address the issues concerned, and provided adequate incentives to make private car owners switch to using EVs expeditiously, so as to meet the target of ceasing the new registration of fuel-propelled private cars in 2035 or earlier?



Question 3  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Development of topside properties at new railway stations

Hon Mrs Regina IP to ask:

Last year, the Government entrusted the MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) to take forward the development of two new railways, namely Tuen Mun South Extension and Northern Link. Under the “ownership” approach and the “Rail-plus-Property development” model, MTRCL is responsible for the construction and operation of the two new railways, and it will be granted the development rights of the topside properties at the railway stations by the Government to subsidize the railway construction costs. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the respective expected numbers of residential units to be built atop the stations of the aforesaid two new railways; and
- (2) whether it will discuss with MTRCL the allocation of at least half of such residential units for sale as Home Ownership Scheme units; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 4  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Food assistance service

Hon Vincent CHENG to ask:

At present, eight non-governmental organizations are subsidized by the Government for operating the Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects to provide basic food assistance to eligible individuals and families for a period of up to eight weeks (which may be extended for cases with special needs). Moreover, some organizations currently operate non-government subsidized food assistance service. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows, in respect of the subsidized food assistance service since January this year, the number of approved applications, the number of person-times receiving the service and the number of approved applications for extended service, as well as the rates of change of such numbers when compared with those of the same period of last year; whether it has estimated, upon the regularization of such service in August this year, the maximum number of person-times that can receive the service and the related administrative expenses to be incurred each year, and if the number of service operators will be increased;
- (2) whether it knows the current number of organizations operating non-subsidized food assistance service, as well as the scopes of their service and the numbers of cases and person-times for which they provided service last year; whether it will provide subsidies for those non-subsidized food assistance service which are currently of a considerable scale, so as to increase the number of service locations; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether it has plans to review the effectiveness of the existing subsidized food assistance service and make enhancements to the service, including following the practice of the Jockey Club Food Assistance Programme in providing flexible ways for collecting food (e.g. through automated cook-chill meals dispensers and online food ordering service), specifying expressly the current practice that self-occupied properties are excluded from calculating the applicants' assets, and stepping up the publicity for the service?

Question 5  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Plan of the Japanese Government to  
discharge nuclear wastewater into the sea

Hon Steven HO to ask:

The Japanese Government announced last month that it would start discharging nuclear wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea in two years' time. Some experts have pointed out that the nuclear wastewater containing radioactive substances will disperse across more than half of the Pacific Ocean within 57 days from the day of discharge, and spread over to all waters around the world in 10 years' time. As a result, the marine ecosystem and fisheries industry around the world (including Hong Kong) will inevitably be affected. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) as the Deputy Prime Minister of Japan has indicated that the diluted nuclear wastewater is safe to drink, whether the Government has requested the Japanese authorities to provide the relevant information to ascertain if the nuclear wastewater is suitable for drinking;
- (2) as the Government has indicated that it will request the Japanese authorities to provide information so that it may assess the food safety risks posed to Hong Kong by the discharge of nuclear wastewater, but the United States Food and Drug Administration published the Import Alert #99-33 soon after the occurrence of the nuclear incident in Japan, authorizing the relevant departments to detain without examination food shipments imported to the United States from Japan, and such import alert is still in force, whether the Government has assessed if the approach to sit back and wait for the Japanese authorities' provision of information lags far behind the prevailing circumstances; and
- (3) as it has been reported that last year, Hong Kong was the largest export destination for Japanese agricultural, forestry and fisheries products, whether, in light of the food safety risks posed by the discharge of nuclear wastewater, the Government will take measures to adjust the structures of the imported food and food industries and explore replacement food sources, so as to reduce reliance on Japanese food; of the measures it will take to alleviate the impacts of the discharged nuclear wastewater on the fisheries industry of Hong Kong?

Question 6  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Free cross-boundary broadcast of  
Mainland and Hong Kong television programmes

Hon LAU Kwok-fan to ask:

Quite a number of members of the public have relayed that as Mainland television (“TV”) programmes are rich and diversified in content, opening up more local spectrums for free broadcast of more programmes of Mainland TV channels can provide members of the public with more choices of programmes, and is also conducive to their understanding of the Mainland’s latest development and culture, their grasp of the national developments, and strengthening their sense of national identity. Regarding free cross-boundary broadcast of Mainland and Hong Kong TV programmes, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has plans at present to open up more local spectrums for free broadcast of more programmes of Mainland TV channels; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) whether it knows if the programmes of the Comprehensive Channel of the China Central Television currently broadcast in Hong Kong and on the Mainland are of the same version; if they are not, of the reasons for that, and whether it has assessed if such an arrangement will reduce the benefit of programme broadcasting; if it has assessed and the outcome is in the affirmative, whether it will discuss with the Mainland authorities the improvement measures; and
- (3) whether it has plans to assist the operators of Hong Kong TV stations in developing the markets in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and other Mainland cities, so as to broadcast more Hong Kong TV programmes on Mainland TV channels?

Question 7  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Assisting the development of young people in the Greater Bay Area

Hon YUNG Hoi-yan to ask:

The Chief Executive stated in the 2020 Policy Address that she hoped that young people could set their sights on the country, seizing the opportunities to study, work and live in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”), so as to broaden the scope for realising their dreams. In recent years, the Government has introduced, through the Youth Development Fund and various other channels, a number of schemes to assist the young people of Hong Kong in studying, taking up employment and starting businesses in the Mainland cities of GBA. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the following information on the aforesaid schemes implemented by the Government in the past five years: (i) title, (ii) the responsible bureau/government department, (iii) commencement date and implementation period, (iv) the Mainland cities of GBA involved, (v) amount of subsidy, and (vi) the number of Hong Kong young people who received the subsidy (set out in the following table);

| (i)                      | (ii) | (iii) | (iv) | (v) | (vi) |
|--------------------------|------|-------|------|-----|------|
| Studying schemes         |      |       |      |     |      |
| 1.                       |      |       |      |     |      |
| 2.                       |      |       |      |     |      |
| ...                      |      |       |      |     |      |
| Employment schemes       |      |       |      |     |      |
| 1.                       |      |       |      |     |      |
| 2.                       |      |       |      |     |      |
| ...                      |      |       |      |     |      |
| Entrepreneurship schemes |      |       |      |     |      |
| 1.                       |      |       |      |     |      |
| 2.                       |      |       |      |     |      |
| ...                      |      |       |      |     |      |

- (2) whether it has established a mechanism to review the implementation progress and effectiveness of the schemes mentioned in (1); if so, of the details of the mechanism and the results of the review; if not, whether it will establish such mechanism; and
- (3) whether it will, in the light of the effectiveness of such schemes, study the need to adjust the scale of the schemes, cease their implementation, or revise their contents and service targets?

Question 8  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

HKMC Annuity Plan

Hon Martin LIAO to ask:

The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited, wholly-owned by the Government through the Exchange Fund, launched the HKMC Annuity Plan (“the Plan”) in July 2018. The maximum premium amount per person of this insurance product was increased from \$1 million to \$3 million in May 2019, and the minimum eligible age for subscription was lowered from 65 to 60 in February 2020. After making a lump-sum premium payment ranging from a minimum of \$50,000 to a maximum of \$3 million, an annuitant may receive a life-long stream of fixed amount of monthly annuity payments, and the cumulative amount of the monthly annuity payments received by the annuitant is guaranteed to be no less than 105% of the premium paid (“the guaranteed rate of return”). Regarding the Plan, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the annual (i) aggregate amount of premiums collected and (ii) number of new annuitants since the launch of the Plan, and set out, in the table below, such figures and a breakdown of the latter by the premium groups as shown in the table;

| Year                            | (i) | Number of new annuitants |                 |                                |                                  |                            |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                 |     | (ii)                     | Premium groups  |                                |                                  |                            |
|                                 |     |                          | Below \$500,000 | \$500,000 to below \$1 million | \$1 million to below \$2 million | \$2 million to \$3 million |
| 2018<br>(from July to December) |     |                          |                 |                                | -                                | -                          |
| 2019                            |     |                          |                 |                                |                                  |                            |
| 2020                            |     |                          |                 |                                |                                  |                            |
| 2021<br>(up to March)           |     |                          |                 |                                |                                  |                            |
| Total:                          |     |                          |                 |                                |                                  |                            |

- (2) of the average entry age of the annuitants at present, and the total amount of annuity payments received by them so far; the up-to-date number of annuitants who have surrendered their policies within the guaranteed period;
- (3) as there are comments that when compared with the average annual inflation rate in Hong Kong in the past three years (i.e. about 2.3%), the guaranteed rate of return of the Plan cannot be counted as attractive, how the authorities determined such rate of return in the

first place, and whether they will consider adjusting the guaranteed rate of return in the light of the actual inflation rate; and

- (4) whether the authorities have compared the attractiveness of the Plan with that of the annuity products launched by private insurance institutions in recent years, and what measures are in place to assist retirees in comparing the expected returns of these two types of products so that they can make an informed choice?

Question 9  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Pursuing development in the Mainland cities of  
the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Hon Jeffrey LAM to ask:

On facilitating Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“Greater Bay Area”), will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) given that the Central Authorities introduced on 1 March 2019 eight policy measures on taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area to facilitate Hong Kong residents to pursue development, take up employment and reside in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as strengthen the convenient flows of people and goods etc. within the Greater Bay Area, of the commencement dates and the latest implementation situation of the various measures (including the number of beneficiaries);
- (2) whether it is currently discussing with the governments of the Guangdong Province and Macao measures to facilitate Hong Kong enterprises to do business in Macao and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area; if so, of the details of such measures;
- (3) whether it will amend sections 39E and 16EC of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to enable enterprises to claim tax allowances in respect of the machinery, equipment and intellectual property rights used in their production processes carried out in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area; and
- (4) of the measures in place to help Hong Kong residents working in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area gain an understanding of the local taxation and social security arrangements, as well as file tax returns to the relevant authorities and calculate the tax payable?



Question 10  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Burial services and facilities

Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan to ask:

It has been learnt that burial services and facilities in Hong Kong, particularly that of public columbarium niches, have all along been in short supply. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the mortality rate of Hong Kong in each of the past two years and that projected for each of the coming five years;
- (2) of the projected number of new public niches to be provided by the Government in each of the coming five years;
- (3) according to the projections based on the mortality rates of Hong Kong, of the respective demand for (i) cremation services and (ii) niches in each of the coming five years; whether it has assessed if the total number of public and private niches to be supplied in the coming five years will be sufficient to meet such demand; and
- (4) given that the Government has since 2012 been taking forward the project involving the construction of funeral parlours, columbaria and crematoria at Sandy Ridge Cemetery, whether it has assessed, in respect of the burial services and niches to be provided under the project in the first 10 years upon project completion, (i) if they will then become the major source of supply of burial services and niches in Hong Kong, and (ii) their respective market shares; whether it has assessed the impacts on the medium and long term supply of burial services and facilities in Hong Kong in the event that the project cannot be completed as planned; if so, of the assessment outcome?

Question 11  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Job creation

Hon YIU Si-wing to ask:

To relieve the unemployment situation, the Government earmarked \$6.6 billion under the Anti-epidemic Fund last year to create some 30 000 time-limited jobs in the public and private sectors within two years (“the Job Creation Scheme”). Moreover, the Government has recently created under the Scheme some 2 000 short-term jobs available for application by practitioners of the tourism industry (including tour guides, tour escorts, staff of travel agents, hotel practitioners and drivers of tourist coaches). The appointees will be responsible for providing managerial and administrative support for community vaccination centres starting this month. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the up-to-date expenditure and the current balance of the Job Creation Scheme;
- (2) of the jobs to be created under the Job Creation Scheme currently under study by the Government, as well as the relevant estimated expenditure and number of jobs, with a breakdown by the industry and the rank to which such jobs belong; and
- (3) whether it will create under the Job Creation Scheme time-limited jobs with responsibilities for providing managerial and administrative support for individual schemes (such as the scheme under which the Government disburses electronic consumption vouchers to eligible Hong Kong residents), to be available for application by practitioners of those industries hard hit by the epidemic, thereby according priority to such persons in the creation of job opportunities; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 12  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Rights and interests of online shoppers

Hon Starry LEE to ask:

In 2018, the business receipts of local online traders from selling of goods, services or information through electronic means amounted to \$491.7 billion, representing an increase of 73% when compared with those in 2012. However, the results of a survey conducted earlier this year by a political party on online shopping traps showed that over 45% of the respondents had unpleasant experiences involving online shopping, most of which were related to the receipt of goods not matching the sale descriptions or being defective. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether the authorities stepped up law enforcement efforts (e.g. making visits to dubious websites) in the past three years to combat online unfair trade practices; if so, of the details;
- (2) whether it will consider amending the legislation to strengthen the regulation of online traders; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (3) whether it will, by drawing reference from the practices of the authorities in the United Kingdom and Korea, establish an online shopping dispute resolution mechanism to enable buyers and sellers to settle their disputes by resorting to non-litigation means such as arbitration or mediation, which are relatively simpler, quicker and cheaper; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (4) whether it will consider strengthening the cooperation with the relevant Mainland departments, so as to more effectively follow up the complaints involving cross-boundary online shopping and implement public education initiatives; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 13  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Hon Frankie YICK to ask:

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (“the Agreement”), signed by 15 economies last year, is a free trade agreement of the world’s largest scale. The total population of such economies accounts for 30% of the world’s population and their total Gross Domestic Product (“GDP”) accounts for one third of the global GDP. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of (i) the quantity of the cargoes transported to the member economies of the Agreement via Hong Kong as a transit point and, among them, the respective quantities of those that were and were not processed (including unloaded, reloaded and stored) in Hong Kong, and (ii) the respective volumes of trade between Hong Kong and such economies, in each of the past three years (set out by name of economy in a table);
- (2) as the Chief Executive indicated in the 2020 Policy Address that the Government would actively strive to make Hong Kong among the first batch of economies joining the Agreement after it took effect, of the latest progress of such work and the timetable for joining the Agreement; and
- (3) whether, in order to grasp the business opportunities to be brought about by the Agreement to the trading and logistics industry, the Government will set up a working group and invite relevant organizations (including organizations of the logistics industry) to send representatives to join the group, so as to formulate the relevant measures; if so, of the details (including the organizations to be invited); if not, the reasons for that?

Question 14  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Employees' compensation for contracting COVID-19 at work

Hon WONG Kwok-kin to ask:

It is learnt that an employee had died after contracting Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") at work, but his employer refused to admit the compensation liability and did not make a report to the Labour Department ("LD") in accordance with the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282). In respect of employees' compensation for contracting COVID-19 at work, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of compensation claims under Cap. 282 received by LD since January 2020 from employees for having contracted COVID-19 at work; among such claims, the respective numbers of those which (i) were fatal cases, (ii) were reported by employers on their own initiative and (iii) were reported by the employees or their family members; and
- (2) among the claims mentioned in (1), of the number of those in which the employers have admitted compensation liabilities and made compensation, as well as the details of such compensation, including (i) the average amount of compensation for fatal cases, and (ii) the maximum, minimum and average numbers of days of work injury sick leave granted to the employees in other claims?

Question 15  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Prevention of child abuse

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan to ask:

In recent years, a number of serious incidents of child abuse have occurred in Hong Kong, arousing public concern about the effectiveness of the existing mechanisms for preventing and identifying child abuse cases. On the prevention of child abuse, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the following information in each of the past five years and since January this year:
  - (i) a breakdown of the number of newly reported child abuse cases by the age group to which the abused children belonged and by case category, and
  - (ii) a breakdown of the number of newly reported child abuse cases by the relationship between the abusers and the abused children and by case category;
- (2) of the number of child abuse crime cases received by the Police in each of the past five years and since January this year, with a breakdown by the age group to which the abused children belonged;
- (3) of the respective numbers of persons (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted for child abuse-related offences in each of the past five years and since January this year, as well as the maximum and minimum penalties imposed on those convicted;
- (4) whether it will establish a mechanism under which professionals such as teachers and school social workers who are in frequent contact with children are obliged to report suspected child abuse cases to the specified authorities within a specified time period after they have uncovered such cases; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (5) of the new measures in place to step up public education on the prevention of child abuse, so that hidden child abuse cases may be uncovered early; and
- (6) of the new measures in place to enhance parent education and support for parents, so as to prevent the occurrence of child abuse incidents?

Question 16  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Telephone deception cases

Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok to ask:

It has been reported that telephone deception has become increasingly rampant. The Police recorded close to 1 200 telephone deception cases in 2020, representing an increase of 80% when compared with 2019, and the amount of money involved in such cases in 2020 was \$570 million (with one of the victims suffering a loss of \$250 million), a substantial surge when compared with 2019 at \$150 million. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of reports involving telephone deception received by the Police in each of the past three years, and the respective numbers of people arrested, prosecuted and convicted; the major obstacles hindering the detection of such cases;
- (2) whether it has considered amending the relevant legislation (including raising the penalties) and enacting new legislation, so as to enhance the deterrent effects against telephone deception; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether it will enhance the cooperation with the banking sector and revise the relevant guidelines, with a view to boosting the success rate of intercepting the money defrauded and helping the victims recover the money defrauded; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 17  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Development projects in progress

Hon Wilson OR to ask:

According to the papers submitted by the Government to the Panel on Development of this Council in January and December 2019 respectively and other published information, the engineering infrastructure works for the Kwu Tung North/Fanling North (“KTN/FLN”) New Development Areas (“NDAs”) and the Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen (“HSK/HT”) NDA will be completed in 2031 and 2037/2038 respectively. Furthermore, the entire project of Tung Chung New Town Extension (“TCNTE”) is expected to be completed in 2030. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the types of works included in the engineering infrastructure works of the various NDAs;
- (2) whether the sites for public housing development in the various NDAs will be handed over to the Hong Kong Housing Authority (“HA”) or the Hong Kong Housing Society (“HS”) only after the completion of the site formation and engineering infrastructure works, and whether the costs of the relevant works are to be borne by the Government; and
- (3) of the latest target dates of the following stages of the various development projects set out in the table below: (i) completion of all engineering infrastructure works, (ii) handing over of all public housing sites to HA/HS, (iii) completion of all public housing construction works, and (iv) the entire planned population having moved into the NDAs (set out in the table below)?

| Development projects                     | Latest target dates |      |       |      |
|--|---------------------|------|-------|------|
|  | (i)                 | (ii) | (iii) | (iv) |
| KTN/FLN NDAs                             |                     |      |       |      |
| TCNTE                                    |                     |      |       |      |
| HSK/HT NDA                               |                     |      |       |      |
| Yuen Long South Development              |                     |      |       |      |
| Kam Tin South Public Housing Development |                     |      |       |      |



Question 18  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Coronavirus Disease 2019 testing services

Hon KWOK Wai-keung to ask:

Currently, the Government has set up distribution points at designated general outpatient clinics under the Hospital Authority (“outpatient clinics”), post offices and MTR stations for members of the public to obtain deep throat saliva specimen collection packs (“collection packs”). Members of the public may return the deep throat saliva specimens (“specimens”) collected by themselves to designated specimen collection points (“collection points”) at specified hours for free Coronavirus Disease 2019 testing (“testing”). Some members of the public have relayed that since February this year when the Government started requiring the persons-in-charge of catering businesses and some scheduled premises to arrange for their staff to undergo testing once every 14 days, there has been a shortage of collection packs at various distribution points, rendering those persons who have to complete testing at a scheduled time unable to obtain collection packs in time. They have also pointed out that a majority of those persons who are required to regularly undergo testing do not know that, apart from obtaining collection packs and returning specimens, they may also go to the Community Testing Centres for free testing. Moreover, there are often long queues at the mobile specimen collection stations set up by the Government in the vicinity of the restricted areas/specified premises set out in the relevant mandatory testing declarations/notices. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) in respect of the various distribution points set up at (i) outpatient clinics, (ii) post offices and (iii) MTR stations, of the average (a) respective daily and monthly numbers of collection packs distributed, and (b) daily time taken to finish distribution of all collection packs after commencement of distribution, since January this year;
- (2) whether it will set up additional distribution points and increase the quantities of collection packs for distribution at the various distribution points;
- (3) whether it will extend the time for collecting specimens at the various collection points to facilitate the return of specimens by members of the public;

- (4) whether it will step up publicity on the categories of persons to whom the Community Testing Centres are providing free testing, so as to alleviate the demand for collection packs; and
- (5) whether it has reviewed the situation of queuing for testing at those mobile specimen collection stations set up in the vicinity of the restricted areas/specified premises, and whether it will increase the manpower for those stations, so as to avoid a rise in the risk of the epidemic spreading as a result of members of the public waiting for a long time for testing?

Question 19  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Issues of employees' rights and interests arising from the epidemic

Hon Holden CHOW to ask:

Under the law, persons placed under quarantine must not leave their place of quarantine within the quarantine period, and persons put under medical surveillance are also subject to certain restrictions on their itineraries within the surveillance period. The Labour Department ("LD") has called on employers to grant paid sick leave to their employees who are absent from work on account of being placed under quarantine or medical surveillance. However, some members of the public have pointed out that as "absence from work on account of being placed under quarantine or medical surveillance" is not the reason for taking sick leave under the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) (i.e. "being unfit for work on account of injury or sickness"), some employers have asked such employees to take no pay leave or offset their absence with their paid annual leave entitlements. Regarding issues of employees' rights and interests arising from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") epidemic, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether those government employees to whom quarantine orders or medical surveillance notices have been issued will be regarded as being granted authorized absence from work for the relevant period;
- (2) whether LD will draw up relevant guidelines in respect of the aforesaid issues of employees' rights and interests to enhance protection for employees' rights and interests; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and;
- (3) given that since 27 November last year, eligible Hong Kong residents confirmed to have contracted COVID-19 locally and suffering from financial hardship may apply for a one-off allowance of \$5,000, whether the Government will extend the scope of the allowance to cover all persons to whom quarantine orders or medical surveillance notices have been issued, so as to compensate them for the relevant financial losses they have suffered; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 20  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Traffic demand of Kowloon East

Hon LUK Chung-hung to ask:

The Government is currently implementing a number of development projects in Kowloon East, such as Kai Tak Development and the Development of Anderson Road Quarry (“ARQ”) Site project. The housing development related to the latter, expected to be completed in phases from the 2023-2024 financial year onwards, can accommodate a population of about 30 000. On the other hand, the Government put forward in the Railway Development Strategy 2014 new railway projects which included the East Kowloon Line (“EKL”), and pointed out that as EKL would be built in hilly terrains and, constrained by the climbing capability of railways, some sections of it had to be built deep underground. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) as the Government indicated in November last year that it had requested the MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) to further assess the nearby environment of EKL and other factors in order to improve the technical design set out in the proposal submitted earlier on by MTRCL on EKL, and had urged MTRCL to explore the feasibility of expediting the relevant work, of the progress of the relevant work;
- (2) whether it will request MTRCL to explore the option of adopting elevated light monorails for the steeper sections; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (3) whether it will introduce market competition (e.g. inviting foreign railway companies to submit proposals for EKL and participate in bidding for the design and build contracts), with a view to expediting the implementation of EKL;
- (4) of the measures to further divert the traffic in Kowloon East before the completion of EKL (e.g. whether it will enhance shuttle bus services, improve bus interchange arrangements, and construct a flyover connecting Prince Edward Road East with nearby streets);
- (5) whether it has estimated, on the premise that EKL is not available, the increase in the vehicular flow on all major roads in Kowloon East upon the full intake of the housing development related to the ARQ site; if so, of the relevant figures; if not, whether it will conduct such an estimation; and

- (6) whether, apart from implementing EKL, the Government has studied other proposals in parallel for solving the traffic congestion problem in Kowloon East in the long run?

Question 21  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Vaccination for visitors to Hong Kong

Hon CHAN Han-pan to ask:

Various immigration control points have been closed one after another and various immigration quarantine measures have been put in place due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) epidemic. As such, the Immigration Department has, since February last year, exercised discretion to allow Mainland residents holding Exit-entry Permits for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao (commonly known as “Two-way Exit Permits”) with an endorsement for visiting relatives to extend their limit of stay in Hong Kong, so that they can continue to take care of their family members in Hong Kong. Like other visitors to Hong Kong, such persons are ineligible for receiving COVID-19 vaccines provided by the Government. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether any Mainland residents who had been granted extension to stay in Hong Kong requested to receive COVID-19 vaccines in the past three months; if so, of the details;
- (2) whether it has provided such persons with channels for receiving COVID-19 vaccines in Hong Kong; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether it will consider allowing visitors who have stayed in Hong Kong for a considerable period of time to receive COVID-19 vaccines in Hong Kong, so as to help prevent and control the epidemic; if so, of the details and implementation timetable; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 22  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Central Moneymarkets Unit

Hon CHAN Chun-ying to ask:

When delivering the Budget in February this year, the Financial Secretary indicated that, in order to cope with the increasing market demand for Northbound Trading of the mutual bond market access between Hong Kong and the Mainland (commonly known as “Bond Connect”) and support its future commissioning of Southbound Trading, the Government will enhance the efficiency and capacity of, and introduce new functions to, the Central Moneymarkets Unit (“CMU”). In the long run, the Government will develop CMU into a major central securities depository platform in Asia and even the world. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the current efficiency and capacity of CMU; whether it has assessed when the capacity of CMU will reach saturation;
- (2) of the level to which the Government plans to enhance the efficiency and capacity of CMU, and the timetable for the enhancement work; whether it has assessed the impacts that delays in the enhancement work will have on the bond market;
- (3) of the details of the work on introducing new functions to CMU (including the estimated expenditure and the implementation timetable), and the benefits that such functions may bring; and
- (4) of the specific plans and measures in place to develop CMU into a major central securities depository platform in Asia and even the world?

**Buildings Ordinance**

**Resolution**

(Under section 2(3) of the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123))

Resolved that—

- (a) the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) be amended as set out in the Schedule; and
- (b) this Resolution is to come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary for Development by notice published in the Gazette.

**Schedule**

**Amendment to Buildings Ordinance**

**1. Schedule 8 substituted**

Schedule 8—

**Repeal the Schedule**

**Substitute**

**“Schedule 8**

[ss. 2(3), 38(1)(ke)(ic) &  
39C(6)(b)(ii)]

**Prescribed Building or Building Works**

| Item | Description  |
|------|--|
| 1.   | Signboard of a prescribed type.  |
| 2.   | Supporting structure for a building services installation, or metal casing for such an installation, of a prescribed type. |
| 3.   | Supporting structure for a radio base station of a prescribed type.  |
| 4.   | Supporting frame for an air-conditioning unit, or for a light fitting, of a prescribed type.                               |



| Item | Description   |
|------|---|
| 5.   | Solid fence wall of a prescribed type.  |
| 6.   | Mesh fence or metal railing of a prescribed type.                               |
| 7.   | Pole of a prescribed type.  |
| 8.   | Metal gate of a prescribed type.  |
| 9.   | Canopy of a prescribed type.  |
| 10.  | Retractable awning of a prescribed type.  |
| 11.  | Trellis of a prescribed type.   |
| 12.  | Metal ventilation duct or any associated supporting frame of a prescribed type. |

## Note on interpretation:

1. In items 1 to 12—

*prescribed* (訂明) means prescribed in a regulation made under section 38(1)(ke)(ic).”

## Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance

---

### Resolution

(Under section 34(4) of the Interpretation and  
General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1))

---

**Resolved** that in relation to the —

- (a) Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2021, published in the Gazette as Legal Notice No. 52 of 2021; and
- (b) Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulation 2021, published in the Gazette as Legal Notice No. 53 of 2021,

and laid on the table of the Legislative Council on 28 April 2021, the period for amending subsidiary legislation referred to in section 34(2) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) be extended under section 34(4) of that Ordinance to the meeting of 16 June 2021.

(Translation)

**Hon LAU Kwok-fan's motion on  
"Driving the development of New Territories North with port economy"**

**Wording of the Motion**

That there are seven land control points along the boundary between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, most of which are located in New Territories North; but at present, these control points in New Territories North merely serve as a cross-boundary transport infrastructure facility for residents commuting between the two places, and their surrounding areas have remained barren and undeveloped; the vast area of land in the northern New Territories can become a major source of land supply for Hong Kong in the future, offering a long-term solution to Hong Kong's problem of land shortage and serious supply-demand imbalance in lands for residential, economic and community uses; at the same time, with its advantageous location, New Territories North serves as a major hub for the convergence of people and goods flows between Hong Kong and Shenzhen and even the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, thus New Territories North possesses the potential to become a new core development region in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; in this connection, this Council urges the authorities to:

- (1) set up a dedicated organization to expedite the planning and development for New Territories North; by capitalizing on its geographical advantage accorded by its location at the convergence of the 'port economy belt' and 'Eastern Knowledge and Technology Corridor', develop New Territories North into a new core development region with the convergence of talents and capital from Hong Kong and Shenzhen and the dominance of innovative technology and high-end education; and develop new towns radiating from such control points;
- (2) conduct studies on the setting up of government departments, public organizations and higher education institutions in New Territories North or their relocation to the region, so as to inject economic impetus into new development areas in New Territories North and dovetail with industries' development;
- (3) expedite the construction of the Northern Link and extend it to various control points, such as Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and Huanggang Port, and conduct studies on connecting Hong Kong's railways to Shenzhen Bay Port; and, at the same time, under the

principle of according priority to building transport infrastructure, draw up planning for the construction of another north-south railway connecting new development areas in New Territories North to the urban centres of Hong Kong, so as to provide a prerequisite for development of New Territories North;

- (4) while balancing conservation needs, through a fresh consolidation of green belt areas, agricultural lands and brownfield sites in northern New Territories and expediting the land rezoning and development processes, expeditiously proceed with land rezoning in port areas as a means to release lands for economic and residential uses, and the reprovisioning of agricultural and brownfield operations; and
- (5) improve the existing rehousing and compensation policy to provide affected households with in-situ rehousing, and offer assistance to brownfield operators and fisheries and agricultural practitioners for resuming operation and production or upgrading and restructuring.

(Translation)

**Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan's motion on  
“Setting up a New Generation Fund to help the new generation  
in Hong Kong plan for the future”**

**Wording of the Motion**

That this Council urges the Government to set up a ‘New Generation Fund’ (‘the Fund’) for newborns and children under the age of 18 in Hong Kong; the Fund can encourage and help the new generation to keep savings through sustainable and joint contributions from the Government and families as well as investment returns; at the same time, the Fund can provide exemption from making full contributions to aid families in financial difficulties, and tax deduction for families making contributions to increase the incentive for such contributions; the Fund not only can encourage parents to make early preparation for the planning of their children’s future but also can provide the new generation with better conditions and more opportunities of upward mobility, thereby alleviating cross-generational poverty so that more children will hold out greater hopes about the future.