

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**HWFB(FE)03  
5**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

0232

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The Administration has planned to establish a Food Safety Testing Laboratory in 2007-08 to provide support to the work of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. As such, there should be a sharp increase in the number of food samples to be taken for testing. However, under this programme, the indicator for food samples taken for testing is 65 000, which is similar to the actual number for 2006. Please explain why there is no corresponding significant increase in the number.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Food Safety Testing Laboratory planned to be established under the Government Laboratory in 2007-08 will provide enhanced and timely laboratory support for the increasing number of food samples tested in relation to food complaints, food incidents and food surveillance. The original estimated number of food samples to be taken for testing under the food surveillance programme in 2006 as shown in the 2006-07 Estimate was 63 000. A total of 65 000 samples is planned for testing in 2007. Additional samples will also be taken in response to food complaints and food incidents.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **EDDY CHAN** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2007 \_\_\_\_\_