

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

Reply Serial No.

**HWFB(FE)15**  
**2**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

1110

Subhead (No. & title) :

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 :

Under this programme, the number of food samples to be taken for testing in 2007-08 is 65 000, only 85 more than the actual number in 2006. What is the difference between the 65 000 food samples under this programme and the 130 000 food samples to be taken by the Government Laboratory for regulatory compliance purposes?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

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 taken for chemical testing 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. For 2007, 65 000 samples are planned for testing. Additional samples will also be taken in response to food complaints and food incidents for microbiological and/or chemical tests. The number 130 000 refers to the number of chemical tests performed by the Government Laboratory. Usually, one food sample is subject to more than one chemical tests.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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