

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

Reply Serial No.

**HWFB(FE)17
1**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

2485

Programme : (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

The estimated financial provision for 2007-08 is 8.2% less than the 2006-07 original. In this regard, please advise on the following:

1. The series of food incidents in 2006-07 have raised the concern of the public and the media over food safety. How will the Administration enhance public awareness of the importance of food safety and empower customers to make informed choices with the reduced provision?
2. Recently, there have been discussions about trans fat and calls for government regulation or self-regulation by the food trade over the use of trans fat, revealing the public's aspiration for informed choices. However, the Administration has not yet indicated its stance, not to mention educating the public on this issue and implementing regulatory measures to include trans fat in nutrition labels to facilitate the public to make informed choices. Has the Administration considered increasing the provision for 2007-08 in this regard?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

1. The estimated financial provision for 2007-08 under Programme (4) remains at approximately the same level as the revised estimated expenditure for 2006-07. In addition to the promotional activities on environmental hygiene and general food safety for the public and schools provided under Programme (4), a financial provision of \$21.5 million has been included in the 2007-08 Estimate under Programme (1) to strengthen food safety promotion activities, representing an increase of 19.4%. A comprehensive publicity and education programme covering various aspects of food safety will be delivered in 2007-08 through workshops, seminars, website, Food Safety Day, press conferences, press releases,

announcements in the public interest, telephone hotlines, media interviews, newsletters, leaflets, posters and audio-visual productions.

2. In response to public health concerns over trans fat, the Department will introduce a series of activities to raise awareness of the community on trans fat and health. These activities include education leaflets, newsletters, talks and a study to examine the levels of trans fat in various indigenous foods. The feasibility of including trans fat as one of the core nutrients in the proposed labelling scheme on nutrition information would also be explored. The resources required for the above activities in 2007-08 will be absorbed from within the allocated resources of the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters EDDY CHAN

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2007