

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

FHB(FE)029

Question Serial No.

0242

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In view of the increasing number of farms, breeding farms and processing plants on the Mainland that export food specifically to Hong Kong, did the Administration make an estimation of the future increase in the number of such farms and plants? In this connection, did the Administration implement food control measures at sources and earmark financial provisions for the purpose? If yes, what criteria are adopted for determining the frequency and number of inspections? How much manpower and resources are involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Before exporting chilled poultry and pork to Hong Kong, Mainland processing plants have to apply for registration from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and the Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA) of the People's Republic of China, and obtain endorsement from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). All animal farms for export to Hong Kong are registered by AQSIQ. We do not have information on the rate of increase in such plants and farms in future.

For control at source, staff of FEHD conduct audit inspections to the processing plants and registered farms. Inspection schedule is drawn up according to a hazard ranking system, taking into account past inspection findings, food surveillance results and export volume. The estimated expenditure for farm inspections is \$5.8 million, involving 3 veterinary officers, 8 field officers and 2 clerks. The resources and manpower deployed for inspection of processing plants cannot be separately identified.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **W H CHEUK** _____

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 20.3.2008 _____

