

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)084

Head: 49 Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1939

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) What are the financial provision and establishment of staff for inspecting vehicles carrying imported vegetables at Man Kam To in 2010-11? How are they compared to the provision and establishment in the previous year (i.e. in 2009-10)?
- (b) In 2010-11, what are the plans by the Department to ensure vegetables imported to Hong Kong are safe for consumption? What is the estimated number of samples to be taken for testing from vehicles carrying imported vegetables that pass through Man Kam To? How is it compared to the number in the previous year (i.e. in 2009-10)?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) In 2010-11, the Man Kam To Food Control Office has an establishment of 42 posts, including health inspectors and supporting staff responsible for inspecting various imported fresh food. The estimated expenditure for food import control is \$87.7 million, which is an increase of \$1.4 million (1.6%) from 2009-10. The resources provided for inspection of imported vegetables at Man Kam To cannot be separately identified.
- (b) To ensure food safety, the Centre for Food Safety will continue to inspect Mainland vegetable farms and inbound food-carrying vehicles at the border checkpoints, including vegetables trucks at Man Kam To Control Point. For 2010, the estimated number of vegetable samples to be taken at Man Kam To Food Control Office for analysis of pesticide residues is 13 000, which is about the same as 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2010