

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

FHB(FE)083

Question Serial No.

2032

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The quality of public cleansing services is a matter of major public concern. The total expenditure under Programme (2) in 2011-2012 will be increased by 3.7%. It is noted however there will be a net decrease of 14 posts. Besides, this year's estimate should have included expenditure required to meet increase in contract value as a result of the implementation of the Minimum Wage Ordinance in May 2011. I am concerned about the quality of cleansing services provided and its development. Please advise:

- (a) on the expenditure on cleansing services for 2011-2012, the percentage it accounts for in the expenses under Programme (2) and the actual amount of change as compared with that in 2010-2011;
- (b) on the number of contractor cleaners engaged in cleansing services, and the change in number as compared with that of 2010-2011;
- (c) on the number of Workman II (WM II) engaged in cleansing services, the change in the number of WM II since 2008-2009 and the estimated change in the number of WM II over the next 4 years (i.e. from 2012 to 2016) based on the medium range forecast; and
- (d) the figures provided by the Department indicated that in 2008 the ratio of outsourced workers to inhouse WM II was 65:35. Will there be any change in this ratio in 2011-2012, and over the next 4 years based on the medium range forecast? If yes, what is the change?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

- (a) In 2011-12, the estimated expenditure on public cleansing services is \$1,819 million which is about 76% of the total expenditure under this programme, representing an increase of about \$42.4 million from that of 2010-11.
- (b) It is estimated that about 6 635 workers will be employed by contractors for providing public cleansing services in 2011-12 as compared with 6 520 in 2010-11, representing an estimated increase of 115 contractor cleaners.

- (c) It is estimated that as at 1 April 2011, the number of Workman II (WM II) performing cleansing duties would be 2 151 as compared with 2 479 as at 1 April 2008, representing an estimated decrease of 328 WM II. The deployment of and need for WM II in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is under constant review and its requirement in the next four years will be considered having regard to the result of the reviews.
- (d) The existing mode of service by engaging both departmental WM II and employees of service contractors has been working effectively. There is no target ratio for contracting out and the Department will keep the existing mode of service delivery under constant review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011