

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

FHB(FE)133

Question Serial No.

3685

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:

Under this programme, a significant increase is noted in the numbers of blood samples taken / to be taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies for two consecutive years (i.e. in 2010-11 and 2011-12). Does the Department have sufficient manpower to cope with the work? If not, will additional resources and manpower be provided for the testing in this respect? If yes, please provide the details. If not, please give the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

To strengthen our surveillance programme on avian influenza, the Administration implemented a basket of enhanced surveillance and control measures at all levels of the live poultry supply chain in 2010. At the import control level, the number of blood samples collected and tested per consignment was increased by 10% since May 2010. The full-year impact of such increase will be reflected in 2011. The additional work will be absorbed within existing manpower and resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011