

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

FHB(FE)150

Question Serial No.

1081

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:

The Department announced earlier that the rodent infestation rate in Hong Kong in 2012 was 2.4%, which was the highest in three years. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the Department's expenditure on anti-rodent measures in various districts in the past three years (i.e. in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) and details of the expenditure on different areas of work; and
- (b) whether the Department has assessed the effectiveness of its rodent disinfestation work in the past three years (i.e. in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13); the increase in expenditure for the next three years (i.e. in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16); and the measures to step up inspections to and prosecutions against food premises with illegal extensions which may worsen the rodent infestation problem.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The expenditure on rodent control work for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 is \$129.9 million, \$136.4 million and \$141.0 million respectively. There is no breakdown on expenditure based on areas of work.
- (b) The Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR) in 2010, 2011 and 2012 was 1.5%, 1.7% and 2.4% respectively. Whilst the RIR in 2012 has gone up slightly from the low levels in the previous two years, the rodent problem in public areas remains generally under control. For 2013-14, the estimated expenditure on rodent control work is \$152.3 million. Estimates for 2014-15 and 2015-16 are not yet available. The Department has been taking vigorous enforcement actions against food premises with illegal extensions. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of prosecutions against licensed restaurants for such irregularities were 2 195, 2 607 and 2 238 respectively. The Department will continue to enhance anti-rodent control work and launch district-specific publicity and educational programmes to promote greater community involvement in rodent control and prevention, in addition to its regular pest control work and annual territory-wide publicity campaigns.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013