

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)134**

**(Question Serial No. 1286)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 5):

The Department's indicator under Programme (2) shows that the volume of refuse collected in 2013 (1 947 442 tonnes) is higher than that in 2012 (1 930 863 tonnes), and the estimated volume of refuse to be collected in 2014 (1 947 400) will only be slightly lower than that in 2013. The Government has repeatedly emphasised its determination to reduce waste and set a target of reducing waste by 40% in a decade. Yet, the estimated volume of refuse to be collected as provided by the Department does not seem to be in line with the waste reduction target. Please advise on the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

The Government is determined to mobilise the people of Hong Kong to jointly achieve the waste reduction target by 40% over 10 years as set out in the "Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" (the Blueprint) published by the Environment Bureau. However, within such a long time-frame, there may well be year-to-year fluctuations in the quantity of wastes that we have to handle. In parallel with the actions set out in the Blueprint, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to plan for proper provision of household refuse collection service. As a prudent approach in ensuring proper waste management service for the community, adequate funding is reserved for handling a prospective amount of refuse similar to that in the previous year. We will closely monitor the actual quantity of refuse collected in the coming years for preparation of estimates for the subsequent years.