

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)137**

**(Question Serial No. 2376)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health  
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 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 19):

In Hong Kong, the rodent problem in some buildings located in old districts is serious, not only affecting environmental hygiene, but also causing great disturbance to the residents of these buildings. Recently residents of Oi Man Estate in Kowloon City reflected to me the unrelenting rodent problem in the neighbourhood. They hoped the Administration would step up its effort to tackle the problem and provide appropriate support to them. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the resources allocated by the Administration for rodent control work in the past three years and the details of the expenditure on various anti-rodent measures;
2. whether the Administration has assessed the effectiveness of these measures; if yes, the results of the assessment; if not, the reason(s); and
3. whether new measures will be implemented (such as distributing rodent cage traps to the residents of the old buildings where the rodent problem is serious) to help the residents catch rodents.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

1. The actual expenditure on rodent control work for 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$136.4 million and \$141.0 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2013-14 is \$151.6 million. There is no breakdown on expenditure based on areas of work.
2. The Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR) in 2011, 2012 and 2013 was 1.7%, 2.4% and 3.1% respectively. Whilst the RIR in 2013 went up slightly from the low levels in the previous two years, it remained at a low single digit, suggesting that the rodent problem in public areas remains generally under control. When the RIR of a district is higher than 10%, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will strengthen rodent disinfestation operations there. For a district with an RIR reaching 20% or higher, the relevant government departments will form a joint task force and launch special rodent control operations to strengthen rodent disinfestation, environmental improvement and cleansing services comprehensively, and to promote rodent control in the community.
3. The Department will continue to enhance rodent control work and launch district-specific rodent control measures in districts with a higher RIR, including 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.