

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)225**

**(Question Serial No. 3714)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses  
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 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 215):

Last year, it was found that outsourced cleansing workers of the Department had to change their uniforms in outdoor areas. Regarding the arrangements for outsourced cleansing workers to change their clothes and take rest breaks, please advise this Committee on the following:

- a) whether all outsourced cleansing workers are provided with regular changing or rest facilities in indoor premises; if not, the number of cleansing workers not provided with these facilities and when these facilities will be provided; and
- b) whether resources will be allocated to improve the existing changing or rest facilities for outsourced cleansing workers in 2014-15; if yes, the specific work plan and the estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- (a) The contracts signed between the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and its service contractors stipulate that contractors should comply with all the legislation in relation to the execution of the service contracts, including the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509). It is incumbent upon contractors to ensure their employees' safety and health at work. There is no specific requirement on a fixed venue for the purpose of changing or rest. At present, the Department has more than 400 venues with contractors engaged. Taking into account the area of the venue and other relevant considerations, the Department will provide suitable rest facilities for employees of the contractors. If rest facilities are available for members of the public and/or staff at the venues concerned, employees of the contractors can generally make use of these facilities. Many venues of the Department with contractors engaged have rest rooms or changing rooms, which can normally be used by employees of the contractors. Some venues do not provide such facilities owing to space constraints.
- (b) The Department has no plan to allocate additional resources for improving the current arrangements on providing venues for changing facilities and breaks for contractors staff in 2014-15.