

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)246

(Question Serial No. 5457)

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 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 55):

Under this programme, the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated in 2013 increased significantly as compared to that in 2012. In this connection, please give the reasons for the increase. Please also advise whether the Department has sufficient manpower to cope with the work; if not, whether additional resources and manpower will be provided. If additional resources and manpower will be allocated, please give the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The number of mosquito breeding places eliminated in 2012 and 2013 is 41 650 and 46 199 respectively. The increase is attributable to the enhanced mosquito prevention and control measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in public places in response to the two confirmed local cases of Japanese encephalitis recorded in July 2013. In addition to about 700 departmental staff, the Department engages private contractors to provide pest control services through roving teams in the territory. The number of roving teams increases in the wet season (i.e. from April to October) every year to reinforce the mosquito control work during that period. At present, the number of roving teams provided by the contractors in the dry season and the wet season is 223 (with a total workforce of about 1 330) and 274 (with a total workforce of about 1 640) respectively. The revised estimated expenditure in 2013-14 and estimated expenditure in 2014-15 on pest control services as a whole is \$476 million and \$484 million respectively.