

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)269****(Question Serial No. 5089)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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 259 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 157):

Regarding Item 818 Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas under this Subhead, please advise this Committee on the details of the expenditure of \$38 million in 2013-14, including the number of hawkers benefitted and the details of the grants provided.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The Finance Committee approved in March 2013 a financial commitment of \$230 million for launching a five-year assistance scheme for some 4 300 licensed fixed-pitch hawkers operating in 43 hawker areas (the Assistance Scheme). The Assistance Scheme, which commenced on 3 June 2013, aims to provide one-off financial assistance to hawkers in the hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to expedite the work of reducing fire risks in those areas. Besides, an ex-gratia payment (EGP) is offered under the Assistance Scheme for voluntary surrender of hawker licences. The estimated expenditure of \$38 million is a rough estimate of the cash flow requirement for payment of stall reconstruction and relocation grants and EGP in 2013-14.

As at 28 February 2014, the number of applications for grants or EGP and the expenditure involved are provided as follows -

Item	Number of hawkers who have applied	Number of applications approved for payment	Amount of grant involved (\$)
Voluntary surrender of hawker licences	261	215	25,800,000
Relocation of stalls	112	3#	156,900
In-situ reconstruction of stalls	93	1#	15,000

Payment for relocation or in-situ reconstruction grant is subject to compliance of all stall construction specifications and clearance of existing stall structure.