

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)06

(Question Serial No. S0182)

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 249-250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No.):

The continuous rise in the rodent infestation rate, which nearly doubled in the past three years, reflected the ineffectiveness of the rodent control work. In this connection, please advise on the measures to address this situation and whether there are any innovative methods to tackle the rodent problem.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

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. Effective rodent prevention and control hinges on continued co-operation between the community and the Government. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will continue to enhance rodent control work and launch district-specific publicity and educational programmes to promote greater community involvement in rodent control and prevention in districts with higher infestation rates, in addition to its regular pest control work and annual territory-wide publicity campaigns.

The overall RIR is the average infestation rate of the districts during the period. When the RIR of a district is higher than ten per cent, the Department will strengthen rodent disinfection operations there. For a district with an RIR reaching 20 per cent or higher, the relevant government departments will form a joint task force and launch special rodent control operations to strengthen rodent disinfection, environmental improvement and cleansing services comprehensively, and to promote rodent control in the community.