

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)138

(Question Serial No. 2335)

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

Question:

Regarding food safety tests, please provide information on the following:

- 1) the number of food samples taken for testing and, among them, the number of those from the Mainland in each of the past four years (i.e. 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15);
- 2) the number of fruit and vegetable samples that were found to be unsatisfactory and, among them, the number of those from the Mainland in each of the past four years (i.e. 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15);
- 3) the number of prosecutions instituted pertaining to the fruits and vegetables in question, as well as the maximum and minimum penalties thus imposed, in each of the past four years (i.e. 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15); and
- 4) whether there will be an increase in the manpower and expenditure in 2015-16, as well as the details of the post(s) to be created; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon HO Sau-lan, Cyd (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

1. The number of food samples tested in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 were about 64 900, 65 000, 64 600 and 64 100 respectively. There is no breakdown on the number of samples from the Mainland.
2. The total number of samples of fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products that were found to be unsatisfactory and the number of such samples from the Mainland in each of the past four years are tabulated as follows -

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total number of unsatisfactory samples of fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products	20	19	8	48
Number of unsatisfactory samples of fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products, from the Mainland	13	14	7	34

3. The number of prosecutions instituted pertaining to the fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products in question in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 were one, three, one and 16 respectively. The penalties imposed ranged from \$2,500 to \$10,000.
4. The revised estimate of carrying out food surveillance work for 2014-15 is \$60.4 million and the estimated expenditure for 2015-16 is \$71.3 million. There is no change in manpower establishment in 2015-16 as we have so far been able to meet the workload through redeployment.

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