

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)146

(Question Serial No. 0879)

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:

Under Programme (2), it is stated that the Department will conduct public consultation on the regulation of the safety of edible oils and the recycling of waste cooking oil. Please advise on the following:

- (a) the frequency of the sampling and testing of edible oils in each of the past three years;
- (b) the number of samples of edible oils that were found not meeting the food safety standards in each of the past three years; and
- (c) given that the Department has announced earlier its measure to step up the testing of edible oils imported from other places and that the number of samples to be collected for testing is expected to increase by at least 20% over the previous year, whether additional manpower and resources will be allocated to cope with the increase in work; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

- (a) The number of samples of edible oil taken for analysis in 2012, 2013 and 2014 were 171, 454 and 798 respectively.
- (b) Three samples taken in 2012 and one sample taken in 2014 were found to have Benzo[a]pyrene (BaP) value exceeding the Centre for Food Safety's action level, though the level did not raise food safety concern.
- (c) The work involved in testing of additional edible oil samples will be absorbed from within existing resources.