

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)157

(Question Serial No. 0657)

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 the indicator “vehicles carrying vegetables inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office”, please provide information on the following:

- the reason(s) for the Department to increase the number to 35 000 for 2015 (Estimate) and the estimated expenditure involved;
- measures that are also taken for inspecting imported vegetables apart from the existing practice of conducting inspections at Man Kam To Food Control Office and the expenditure involved;
- whether the Department is aware that uninspected vegetables have been brought into the territory by individuals via the passenger channels at boundary control points other than those at Man Kam To for sale in markets; if yes, the details and the measures against such activities; and
- the quantity of uninspected vegetables seized when smuggled into the territory in each of the past five years.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 39)

Reply:

The estimated number of vehicles carrying vegetables inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office in 2015 is 35 000 which represents a slight increase of less than 1% from the actual number of such vehicles inspected in 2014. The estimated expenditure in 2015-16 for food import and export control is \$145.2 million. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure for inspection of vehicles carrying vegetables at Man Kam To Food Control Office.

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) and the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) have been working together closely. They conduct joint operations from time to time to inspect vehicles carrying vegetables at the Man Kam To Boundary Control Point (MKTBCP). C&ED would refer any suspicious vehicles carrying vegetables via other control points to CFS. CFS does not keep a separate breakdown on the expenditure involved. The Airport

Food Inspection Offices of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department inspects vegetables imported via air.

CFS is mindful of the cases where vegetables are brought, in the name of self-consumption, into Hong Kong by travellers via the Lo Wu Control Point . CFS maintains close liaison with C&ED and exchanges intelligence on activities of importing vegetables through control points other than MKTBCP. To intercept such activities, C&ED and CFS conduct joint operations from time to time. In the past five years (2010-2014), CFS had not intercepted any vegetables imported through control points other than MKTBCP.

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