

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)167**

**(Question Serial No. 2641)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the household waste charging scheme to be introduced by the Environment Bureau, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) whether any measures and follow-up actions were taken by the Department in 2014-15 to tie in with the implementation of the policy; if yes, the details of the work and the expenditure involved; and
- (b) whether any efforts will be made to tie in with the household waste charging scheme in 2015-16; if yes, the details of the work and the expenditure to be involved?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is a member of the Inter-Departmental Working Group convened by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to steer and co-ordinate the preparatory work for the implementation of the Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme (the Scheme). In 2014-15, the Department has commenced a review of the design and distribution of litter containers placed in public places. The Department is also providing necessary support and advice to the EPD on a pilot trial for retrofitting bin-counting system on refuse collection vehicles of the Department, in support of the interim charging option of the Scheme for residential buildings using the Department's refuse collection service. The above work was taken up by existing staff. There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved.
- (b) In 2015-16, the Department will continue with the work set out in (a) above and contribute to other areas through the Inter-Departmental Working Group. In addition to utilising existing resources, the Department will create three time-limited posts

comprising one Senior Superintendent of Environmental Hygiene, one Health Inspector I/II and one Executive Officer II from 2015-16 to 2017-18 to conduct the preparatory work for implementation of the Scheme, with an estimated expenditure of about \$2 million in 2015-16.

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