

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6544)

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:

With regard to the imported food samples taken for testing of radiation level, please advise on the following:

- a. the number of samples taken for testing, the number of unsatisfactory samples, and the sources of origin of the unsatisfactory samples in each of the past three years; and
- b. whether the Department has any plan(s) under its 2015-16 estimate to step up the work on sampling and testing; if yes, the details, as well as the manpower and expenditure, in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 362)

Reply:

In 2012, 2013 and 2014, the number of samples taken from imported Japanese food for examination of radiation level by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) was 50 414, 56 382 and 61 459 respectively. No unsatisfactory sample was detected.

The estimated number of samples taken from imported Japanese food for examination of radiation level in 2015 is about 62 000. CFS will continue to adopt a risk-based approach in formulating strategies to monitor food imports from Japan, and will adjust the surveillance measures on Japanese food imports as necessary to ensure food safety and protect public health. In doing so, CFS will make reference to the test results of the Japanese authority and local surveillance, latest measures taken by other countries/places against food products imported from Japan, and recommendations made by international agencies including the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the issue.

In 2015-16, 14 civil servants and 21 non-civil service contract staff are designated for carrying out radiation examination work for Japanese food imported via sea. The Airport Offices of CFS is responsible for carrying out radiation examination work for Japanese food

imported by air. The staff of the Airport Offices are also tasked with other duties, and we do not keep separate breakdown on the manpower resources required to undertake radiation examination work.

The estimated expenditure on food import and export control by CFS in 2015-16 is \$145.2 million. We do not keep separate breakdown on the expenditure used for undertaking the radiation examination work.

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