

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)267

(Question Serial No. 3427)

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:

Please advise on the reason(s) for the significant increase in the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated for two successive years. Please also advise whether sufficient resources have been earmarked with relevant measures drawn up, including the deployment of manpower and allocation of resources, to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases; if yes, please give details of the work, the manpower and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 66)

Reply:

In 2013 and 2014, 46 199 and 49 425 mosquito breeding places were eliminated respectively. The increase in 2014 was attributable to the enhanced mosquito prevention and control measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in public places in response to the three confirmed local cases of Japanese encephalitis in mid-2014 and three confirmed local cases of dengue fever recorded in the last quarter of 2014. In addition to about 700 departmental staff responsible for pest control (including mosquito control), the Department engages private contractors to provide pest control services in the territory through roving teams. In the wet season from April to October every year, 274 roving teams (with a workforce of about 1 640) are deployed to reinforce the mosquito control work during that period, as compared to 223 roving teams (with a workforce of about 1 330) for the rest of the year. In the light of the three local cases of dengue fever which occurred in October and November 2014, the Department deployed additional roving teams to sustain the efforts in mosquito control throughout the winter months from December 2014 to March 2015. The revised estimated expenditure in 2014-15 and estimated expenditure in 2015-16 on pest control services as a whole is \$500 million and \$507 million respectively.

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