

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)089

(Question Serial No. 1149)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

1. Regarding the six public markets recommended by the consultant for improvement, what is the amount of provision earmarked by the Department for taking forward their improvement plans? What improvement plans will be implemented this year?
2. Apart from the six public markets above, has the Government earmarked provision for the improvement of the operating environment of public markets?

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No.69)

Reply:

The information sought is given below-

1. The Government is following up the Consultant's improvement proposals for the six selected markets by phases. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has consulted the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of Sheung Fung Street Market and Lockhart Road Market in the fourth quarter of 2015 on the recommended improvement works. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. The Department is carefully considering their views and will conduct feasibility studies, work out the estimated costs and seek funding according to the established mechanism for taking forward the improvement works at these two markets. We will start following up the Consultant's recommended improvements for the other four markets in 2016-17.
2. Apart from the improvement works for the six markets selected by the Consultant, we have been implementing various improvement works in public markets to improve the operating environment. In 2016-17, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Department will carry out improvement works in Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (East), Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West), Kwun Chung Market, Haiphong Road Temporary Market, Pei Ho Street Market and Tsuen Wan

Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$68.5 million. The scope of works may include installation of a goods lift, improvement of ventilation, lighting systems and fire services, refurbishment of external walls, refurbishment of toilets, etc.

In addition, to ensure smooth operation of lift and escalators in public markets, we have plans to replace by phases lifts and escalators which are over 20 years old. We have earmarked \$115 million to replace 12 lifts and 34 escalators in 16 markets, and will start the replacement work in 2016-17.

At the same time, the Department will continue to conduct promotional activities to enhance the patronage of existing public markets. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information, as well as other promotional activities that could help to attract members of the public to visit the public markets. The estimated cost of these promotional activities in 2016-17 is \$7 million.

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