

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)104

(Question Serial No. 1370)

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:

The litter bins on busy streets in Kowloon West always overflow, and the problem in the area around Fa Yuen Street in Mong Kok is most serious. Bags of refuse, regardless of their sizes, are found scattering all over the ground, not only causing poor hygiene but also creating a public eyesore. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

the number of litter bins placed on the densely populated and busy streets in Kowloon West, the locations concerned, as well as the schedule of waste removal; whether any study has been conducted to examine the reason(s) for the overflow of litter bins so that targeted measures can be taken to improve environmental hygiene; and what publicity measures have been put in place to remind the public that it is an offence to leave behind any waste next to a litter bin.

Asked by: Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

There are 2 130 litter bins placed in Yau Tsim, Mong Kok and Sham Shui Po areas. These bins are placed at bus / public transport stops, street corners, outside theatres and convenient points in public places. The frequency of emptying litter bins varies from five to eight times daily. Given that the Yau Tsim Mong area is a major shopping, dining and entertainment centre frequented by locals and tourists, the usage rate of the litter bins therein is very high. Besides, it is not uncommon to find litter bins in the area choked with large articles like packaging materials as opposed to litter. Thus, the litter bins are filled up quickly. Separately, bagged domestic refuse was found to have been placed beside the litter bins illegally in areas with "3-nil buildings". The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is considering taking targeted measures to improve the situation, such as shifting the location of litter bins, increasing the frequency at which the bins are emptied, educating shop operators / residents, stepping up prosecution actions against littering offenders, etc. At present, refuse bins are affixed with warning notices to remind members of the public not to put bagged refuse beside the litter bins or else they risk

prosecution. To enhance public understanding of the relevant legislation, the Department is taking steps to highlight the warning messages placed on the litter bins and to enhance publicity efforts through the mass media in 2016-17.

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