

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)112

(Question Serial No. 2003)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

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 food safety tests in the past year, please provide information on the following:

- 1) the number of food samples taken for testing and, among them, the number of those from the Mainland; if there is no such classification of samples, the reason(s);
- 2) the number of fruit and vegetable samples found to be unsatisfactory and, among them, the number of those from the Mainland;
- 3) the number of prosecutions instituted pertaining to the fruits and vegetables in question, as well as the maximum and minimum penalties imposed; and
- 4) whether there will be an increase in the manpower and expenditure in 2016-17, as well as the details of the post(s) to be created; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- 1) The total number of food samples tested in 2015 was about 64 300. There is no breakdown into the number of samples from the Mainland. Source tracing was only conducted for unsatisfactory samples.
- 2) In 2015, a total of 29 700 fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products were tested by Centre for Food Safety (CFS). Out of the 29 700 samples, a total of 130 samples of fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products were found to be unsatisfactory. Among the 130 unsatisfactory samples, 87 were from the Mainland, the main source of food supply for Hong Kong accounting for among others, over 90% of the vegetables imported in 2015. According to the findings of the risk assessment

conducted by the CFS on the unsatisfactory samples, normal consumption of the foods concerned would unlikely pose adverse health effects.

- 3) The number of prosecutions against unsatisfactory fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products in 2015 was 38. The convicted were fined from \$1,500 to \$20,000.
- 4) The revised estimate for carrying out food surveillance work in 2015-16 was \$65.3 million and the estimated expenditure in 2016-17 is \$71.1 million. There is no change in the manpower establishment in 2016-17. The current manpower is able to meet operational requirements.

- End -