

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)116

(Question Serial No. 0590)

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 indicator for mosquito breeding places eliminated, please advise on the reason(s) for the significant increase in the number for two successive years, as well as the details and effectiveness of the work concerned in 2015. 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: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

In 2014 and 2015, 49 425 and 55 353 mosquito breeding places were eliminated respectively. The increase in 2015 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 a number of confirmed local cases of Japanese encephalitis and dengue fever in that year. 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 2015, 266 roving teams (with a workforce of about 1 600) were deployed to undertake mosquito control work during that period. The Department has deployed largely the same number of roving teams in the winter months in the last two years to sustain the efforts in mosquito control and prevention. A total of 32 additional roving teams were also deployed to enhance work in this respect during the "Keep Clean 2015 @ Hong Kong: Our Home" Campaign in August and September 2015. We would keep up the work on mosquito control and prevention in 2016-17 with an estimated expenditure of \$247.2 million.