

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)131

(Question Serial No. 0645)

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 anti-mosquito work of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. details of the anti-mosquito work, as well as the expenditure involved, in the past three years;
2. whether the Department has assessed the effectiveness of the anti-mosquito work; if yes, the findings of the assessment; and
3. whether professional training, such as training programmes or seminars conducted by experts, or study/interflow visits to countries/regions with notable achievement in mosquito control, was provided for staff engaged in anti-mosquito work in the past three years; and whether there are plans to organise such activities in the next three years; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has adopted an integrated approach in the prevention and control of mosquitoes. Under this approach, the Department implemented a dengue vector surveillance programme to monitor the distribution of *Aedes albopictus* at selected areas, evaluate the effectiveness of mosquito prevention and control work carried out by various parties, and provide surveillance information to the public and for making timely adjustments to its mosquito control strategies and measures. Moreover, the Department organizes annual anti-mosquito campaigns on a territory-wide basis to enhance public awareness of the potential risk of mosquito-borne diseases, encourage community participation and promote concerted efforts of government departments concerned in anti-mosquito work. The actual expenditure on mosquito control work for 2013-14 and 2014-15

was \$231.3 million and \$243.1 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2015-16 is \$253.8 million.

2. In view of the dengue fever situations of areas neighbouring Hong Kong and the spread of Zika virus by mosquitoes, anti-mosquito work has been enhanced. The Department has increased the number of dengue vector surveillance areas in the community from 44 to 52, strengthened the Japanese encephalitis vector surveillance and increased the frequency of dengue vector surveillance in port areas from once per month to once every fortnight (while maintaining that for the Airport at a weekly interval). The number of contractors' pest control teams during the winter months (December 2015 to March 2016) is maintained at the same level as in summer 2015. Based on the surveillance results, the anti-mosquito work in Hong Kong is considered effective. Nonetheless, the Department will remain vigilant. We will convene district task force meetings with major departments concerned as and when necessary; coordinate joint mosquito control operations; and work with District Council members to promote mosquito control work in the local community.
3. Staff of the Department have established contact with experts in other countries and cities through attending international conferences organized by the National Pest Management Association of U.S.A., the Confederation of European Pest Control Associations and the Federation of Asian and Oceania Pest Managers Association, etc. The Department will continue to arrange suitable professional training for its staff to keep them abreast of the latest methods and strategies in pest control.

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