

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)132

(Question Serial No. 0655)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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:

Under Programme (3): Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016-17 , it is mentioned that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will assist the Food and Health Bureau in developing proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study conducted in 2014. With regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Consultancy Study on Ways to Improve the Operating Environment of Public Markets, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the expenditure on improving the operating environment of public markets over the past three years and the expenditure on each type of projects;
2. whether the financial provision in this respect will increase in 2016-17; if yes, the rate of the increase; and
3. as the Government has indicated that the relevant Market Management Consultative Committees will need to be consulted before finalisation of the improvement measures, the progress of the consultation concerned, as well as the expected timetable for launching and finalising the improvement plans.

Asked by: Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

1. The expenditure involved in improvement projects completed in the past three years to enhance the operating environment of public markets is set out as follows -

Year	Expenditure on completed market improvement projects (\$million)
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2013-14	22.2
2014-15	9.5
2015-16 (Revised estimate)	11.2

The works include improvements to the drainage, ventilation, lighting, fire services equipment, and signage, as well as the replacement of floor tiles, refurbishment of toilets and provision of barrier free access. As resources for market improvement projects are allocated on a venue basis, there is no cost breakdown of individual type of improvement works.

2. The estimated total cost for market improvement projects for 2016-17 is \$68.5 million.
3. The consultant selected six representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. The six markets are Tsuen Wan Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Lockhart Road Market and Wing Fong Street Market. The Government is following up the specific improvement proposals for these markets in phases. In line with existing practices for taking forward market improvement projects, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) 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 cost 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. The experience gained and the improvement recommendations taken forward will serve as reference for pursuing improvements to other similar markets in future.

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