

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)296

(Question Serial No. 6166)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

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:

With regard to the green burial services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of cases involving scattering of cremains in Gardens of Remembrance in cemeteries managed by the Department in the past three years, with a breakdown by cemetery;
- (b) the service quota for scattering of cremains at sea and the utilisation rate in the past three years;
- (c) whether the Department will increase the service quota for scattering of cremains at sea in 2016-17; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
- (d) details of the work plan for promoting green burial in 2016-17, as well as the estimated expenditure in this respect, with a breakdown by publicity programme.

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 181)

Reply:

- (a) The number of applications for scattering of cremated ashes in the Gardens of Remembrance managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past three calendar years is as follows –

| Name of Garden of Remembrance | No. of Applications | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Cape Collinson | 452 | 440 | 511 |
| Diamond Hill | 1 282 | 1 508 | 1 880 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Kwai Chung | 293 | 340 | 326 |
| Fu Shan | 124 | 128 | 127 |
| Wo Hop Shek Phase V | 85 | 195 | 285 |
| Wo Hop Shek Phase III | 117 | 83 | 66 |
| Cheung Chau | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Peng Chau | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lamma | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 2 354 | 2 697 | 3 196 |

- (b) Information on the service capacity, number of applications received and the utilisation rates of the free ferry service provided by the Department for scattering of cremated ashes at sea in the past three calendar years is given below –

| Year | Service capacity | Number of applications received | Utilisation rate |
|-------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 2013 | 950 | 709 | 75% |
| 2014 | 900 | 790 | 88% |
| 2015 | 950 | 817 | 86% |

- (c) The Department reviews the service capacity for the free ferry service from time to time, and will consider increasing the service level should demand for the service so warrant.
- (d) In 2016-17, the Department will continue with its efforts in promoting green burial. Plans are in hand to sustain publicity and public education through different channels including broadcasting through Announcement in the Public Interest on television and radio, collaboration with non-governmental organisations, etc. The estimated amount of new provision earmarked for promoting green burial in 2016-17 is about \$2.5 million.

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