

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 6339)

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:

Please advise on the work plan and estimated expenditure of the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food in 2016-17. Please also advise on its expenditure in 2015-16, with a breakdown by item.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 259)

Reply:

It has always been the Government's policy to encourage and promote healthy eating. An integral part of the policy in promoting healthy diet is to encourage and facilitate the public to reduce the intake of salt and sugar in food on an ongoing basis. The Government's target is to gradually reduce the intake of salt and sugar by Hong Kong citizens to the levels recommended by the World Health Organization.

To this end, the Government set up in March 2015 the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food (CRSS), and re-appointed five public health experts from the Mainland and overseas as members of the International Advisory Panel on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food (IAP) in order to advise the Government on salt and sugar reduction measures from local and overseas perspectives respectively. So far, the two bodies have held a series of meetings for gauging the views of relevant stakeholders, including food manufacturers and the catering industry, conducting focused discussions and devising possible measures for salt and sugar reduction appropriate to Hong Kong's context. The CRSS' current preference is a non-legislative approach and in this connection, has been considering possible voluntary and educational measures in consultation with the trade and other sectors. We expect to be able to roll out the measures progressively with effect from Q2 of 2016.

In 2016-17, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department plans to create five additional civil service posts, involving an estimated annual expenditure of \$3.764 million, to strengthen the executive and technical support for work relating to reduction of salt and

sugar. Other manpower and expenditure required are absorbed from within existing resources.

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