

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)316**

**(Question Serial No. 6355)**

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 regulation of the safety and quality standards of edible fats and oils and the recycling of waste cooking oils, please provide information on the Department's work plan and manpower involved.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 276)

Reply:

The Government conducted a public consultation on the regulatory proposals to regulate the safety and quality standards of edible fats and oils and the recycling of "waste cooking oils" (WCO) from July to October 2015. The views collected during the consultation exercise and the Government's observations were reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in December 2015. We are in the course of formulating specific regulatory proposals, taking into account the views of relevant stakeholders. We plan to put forward specific regulatory proposals in 2016-17.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is working with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to implement administrative measures to regulate the recycling of WCO by imposing an additional licensing condition on restaurant, factory, canteen, food factory or bakery that the WCO produced during the cooking process must be handed over to a collector registered by EPD. EPD has started to accept applications for registration under the administrative scheme starting from mid-February 2016. FEHD would be in a position to incorporate the licensing condition into new and renewed licences of aforesaid food premises only after EPD has confirmed that registered collectors have sufficient capacity to provide WCO collection service for them. The relevant expenditure in 2016-17 will be absorbed from within the existing resources and manpower of EPD and FEHD.