

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)323**

**(Question Serial No. 6688)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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:

Please advise on the details of plans and projects that the Department will continue to take forward for the provision of more crematorium and columbarium facilities, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 386)

Reply:

On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) completed the reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium in 2015 to provide ten new cremators and ancillary facilities. The overall cremation capacity of all public crematoria has increased from 44 600 to 52 800 sessions per annum, which is expected to meet the projected demand up to 2025. In light of the demand and supply situation, there will be no provision of new public crematoria in 2016-17. We will continue to formulate plans to reprovision existing crematoria or build new ones with regard to the conditions of the existing crematoria and the projected demand for cremation services.

On public columbarium facilities, the Government has been promoting development of columbaria in all districts and identified 24 potential sites in the territory for columbarium development to increase the supply of public niches. Among these 24 sites, the construction of 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium was completed in early 2012, while the construction of 1 000 niches in Cheung Chau Cemetery was completed in December 2013.

The Department has obtained funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in 2015 for the construction of 160 000 niches at Tsang Tsui and construction works are scheduled for completion in 2019. The Department has also consulted and obtained the in-principle support of the relevant District Councils on the construction of 855 niches at Wong Nai Chung Road, 20 000 niches at Tsing Tsuen Road, 200 000 niches at Sandy Ridge Cemetery, 25 000 niches at Chai Wan and 44 000 niches at

Wo Hop Shek (Phase I). The next step is to proceed with the conceptual/detailed design, as applicable, of the relevant projects, and to seek funding approval for commencing site formation or construction works. The estimated cost for developing new columbarium facilities can only be ascertained upon finalisation of design details.

The Department deploys existing staff, who also perform other duties, to take forward the above projects. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower resources involved in such projects.

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