

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)330

(Question Serial No. 4469)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment

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:

In view of the rampant outbreaks of influenza in recent years, members of the public are more concerned about the cleanliness of streets. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is therefore required to step up the cleansing of environmental hygiene blackspots. Yet, there are complaints about the severe shortage of street washing vehicles.

In this connection, I support the increase in the financial provision from \$22 million to \$66 million under Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment in this year's Estimates, which is 192% higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. Please advise on the increase in number and the total number of street washing vehicles, whether there is any increase in the frequency of street washing at the blackspots after procurement of additional street washing vehicles, and what change will take place in the locations for cleansing by street washing vehicles.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 145)

Reply:

As at 29 February 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has 100 street washing vehicles (SWVs) under its deployment. Of these, 28 are owned by the Department and 72 are provided by its contractors under the street cleansing contracts. In 2016-17, the Department will replace 34 of the Department's SWVs (including six spare SWVs), and will deploy four additional SWVs and seven high pressure hot water cleanser teams to enhance street washing services.

Most streets are washed at a frequency of up to twice per week, depending on the actual situations on the ground. For specific locations such as hygiene black spots or areas with conglomeration of wild birds, the Department will conduct street washing up to once daily. The Department will closely monitor the cleanliness and hygiene condition of public places including hygiene black spots and adjust the frequency of street washing services provided thereto as and when necessary.