

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)145

(Question Serial No. 0515)

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 reason(s) for the increase in the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated for two successive years, as well as the details and effectiveness of the work concerned in 2016. Please also advise whether sufficient resources have been earmarked with relevant measures drawn up, including the deployment of manpower and allocation of resources, to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases; if yes, please give details of the work, the manpower and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 34)

Reply:

In 2015 and 2016, 55 353 and 57 103 mosquito breeding places were eliminated respectively. The increase in 2016 was attributable to the enhanced mosquito prevention and control measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in public places in response to a number of confirmed local cases of dengue fever and imported cases of Zika virus infection in that year. In addition to about 700 departmental staff deployed to pest control (including mosquito control), the Department engages private contractors to provide pest control services in the territory through roving teams. As regards the winter season from November 2016 to March 2017, the Department has increased the number of roving teams by 56 in order to maintain the same number of teams as in the wet season. Together with the additional roving teams under the District-led Actions Scheme, the number of roving teams this winter is largely maintained at about 280 (with a workforce of about 1 680) to strengthen mosquito control in the season. Additional funding has been provided to the Department for sustaining its anti-mosquito work throughout the winters of 2014, 2015 and 2016. We would keep up the work on mosquito prevention and control in 2017-18 with an estimated expenditure of \$263.6 million.