

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)189

(Question Serial No. 0726)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work of continuing to improve the management and upgrade the facilities of public markets, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) given that the Food and Health Bureau has commissioned a consultancy study on the operation of public markets, in which improvement measures were recommended for Ngau Chi Wan Market and Sheung Fung Street Market, the progress in the implementation of the improvement measures in 2016-17, the commencement date of the improvement works, and the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- 2) the progress of the feasibility study on the installation of air-conditioning facilities in Ngau Tau Kok Market, the expenditure involved, and the expected completion date of the study.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

The information sought is provided below-

- (1) The consultant selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. These 6 markets are Tsuen Wan Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Lockhart Road Market and Wing Fong Street Market. The Government is following up the specific improvement proposals for these markets in phases including gauging their feasibility and acceptability to the tenants. With regard to the recommended improvement measures for Ngau Chi Wan Market and Sheung Fung Street Market, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has consulted the Market Management Consultative Committee (MMCC) of Sheung Fung Street Market on the recommended improvement works. The MMCC expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report.

The scope of improvement works is being finalised in consultation with relevant departments. We are now following up the Consultant's recommended improvements for Ngau Chi Wan Market. The above work will be undertaken by existing staff, and the project estimates would be finalised upon completion of the feasibility studies and the funding approval process.

- (2) The Government has lowered the threshold of tenants' support for the installation of air-conditioning facilities in public markets from 85% to 80% with effect from 1 July 2015. The result of the questionnaire survey shows that Ngau Tau Kok Cooked Food Centre (NTKCFC) has a support rate of 90% whereas that for the Ngau Tau Kok Market is below 80%. The Architectural Services Department has already commissioned a preliminary feasibility assessment on the retrofitting of air-conditioners at the NTKCFC. FEHD is now examining the initial assessment report, and plans to consult the MMCC in the first half of 2017. Taking into consideration factors such as the findings of the technical feasibility study, extent of works required, cost effectiveness, impact on business and market operation, and whether the implementation details are acceptable to the tenants concerned, FEHD will decide whether there is a case for seeking funds to carry out the installation works in accordance with the established mechanism.

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