

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)279

(Question Serial No. 5505)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
(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 provide details of the work of “conducting risk assessment on pests affecting public health” in the 18 districts. Please also set out in tabular form the pest black spots, as well as the estimated figures in respect of pests affecting public health, in the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6102)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has been conducting the following risk assessment programmes to monitor the situation of mosquitoes and rodents with a view to assessing the local risk of vector-borne diseases –

- (a) the dengue vector surveillance programme for monitoring the distribution of *Aedes albopictus* at selected areas and major port areas. As *Aedes albopictus* can also transmit Zika virus infection, the surveillance programme can also assess the risk of local Zika virus infection transmission. Surveys are conducted at a regular interval and samples collected are tested for the presence of virus;
- (b) the Japanese encephalitis vector surveillance programme covering areas with history of local cases and areas that are considered to be risky in transmission of the disease. Surveys are conducted at a regular interval and samples collected are tested for the presence of virus; and
- (c) the surveillance programme on rodents covering areas or places likely to have rodent problems, in particular those bustling with human activities. Surveys are conducted at a regular interval to gauge the general situation of rodent infestation in individual districts.

Survey results will be used as the basis for drawing up appropriate prevention and control measures and for assessing the overall efficacy of such work.

The Department has not conducted any study to estimate the number of pests in individual districts as pest problems are very dynamic in nature. Instead of estimating the absolute number of pests, surveillance programmes have been put in place to monitor the changes in the relative density of pests for timely adjustment of prevention and control strategies.

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