

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)293**

**(Question Serial No. 5975)**

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:

With regard to the temporary storage service for cremains provided by the Department, please advise on the number of cases with storage period longer than two months, the longest storage period and the total amount of fees collected in the past 5 years. Please also advise whether there will be an increase in the expenditure for providing the service; if yes, the amount of the increase, the number of additional temporary storage facilities as planned and their storage capacity.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1125)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) provides service for temporary storage of cremains in all its crematoria free of charge in the first 2 months following cremation. The duration may be extended upon application at a monthly fee of \$80. In the past 5 calendar years, there were altogether 275 cases in which the duration of temporary storage exceeded 2 months. Among these cases, the longest storage time was 47 months. The total revenue collected in the past 5 calendar years in respect of this service was \$208,540.

The Department at present has a total of about 23 000 temporary urn storage spaces at the Kwai Chung Crematorium and Wo Hop Shek Columbarium (Phase III & Phase V). An additional 42 000 temporary urn storage spaces will be made available at the vacant staff quarters at Cape Collision Crematorium and Hong Kong Cemetery, the old Kwai Chung Crematorium, Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase V and the vacant store rooms at Fu Shan Columbarium and Cape Collision Columbarium by stages from Q1 2017 to Q1 2018. In other words, the total number of temporary urn storage spaces will be increased to about 65 000 in the coming 2 years. We are exploring the feasibility of increasing temporary storage spaces in other venues.