

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)352

(Question Serial No. 5027)

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 has stepped up the cleansing of environmental hygiene blackspots. Yet, there are complaints about the severe shortage of street washing vehicles. Therefore, I have all along requested increasing the number of street washing vehicles and gully cesspit emptiers.

Nonetheless, there are no estimates on the breakdown of expenditure under Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment in this year's Estimates of Expenditure. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (1) whether the Department considers the number of vehicles procured last year sufficient;
- (2) the number of street washing vehicles added last year and the total number of street washing vehicles at present;
- (3) whether there is any increase in the frequency of street washing at the blackspots after procurement of additional street washing vehicles last year; and
- (4) the changes taken place in the areas, locations and frequency for cleansing by street washing vehicles after procurement of additional street washing vehicles last year.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 544)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (1)&(2) As at 28 February 2017, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has 141 street washing teams (SWTs), each team comprising 1 street washing vehicle, 1 supervisor-cum-driver and 3 workmen, under its deployment. Of these, 28 SWTs are provided by the Department and 113 SWTs are provided by its contractors under street cleansing contracts. A total

of 10 additional SWTs have been deployed to enhance street washing services in 2016-17.

- (3)&(4) 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.

- End -