

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)302

(Question Serial No. 6350)

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:

With regard to the development and regulation of the Chinese medicine trade, please provide information on:

- (a) the number of inspections (including proactive inspections and inspections upon receipt of reports) conducted and the number of enforcement actions taken against unlicensed manufacturing and production of health food products, and the expenditure involved, in the past 3 years;
- (b) the number of premises issued with any two of the three licences, namely the Manufacturer Licence in Proprietary Chinese Medicines, the Food Factory Licence and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Licence, and the expenditure incurred, as at 2017/18.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 25)

Reply:

- (a) In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the number of prosecutions against unlicensed food factories are 688, 751 and 835 respectively. A separate breakdown on inspections and prosecutions against unlicensed food factories involved in the manufacturing of health foods is not available.

At present, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) deploys about 318 health inspectors to 19 district environmental hygiene offices across the territory to handle various environmental hygiene issues in the district, including, inter alia, inspecting and taking follow-up enforcement action against unlicensed food factories in the district. We do not keep separate statistics on the manpower and expenditure involved in taking enforcement action against unlicensed food factories.

- (b) There are 16 proprietary Chinese medicine manufacturers and 1 pharmaceutical manufacturer licensed by the Department of Health holding food factory licence issued

by FEHD simultaneously. We do not keep separate statistics on the manpower and expenditure involved in the administration of these food factory licences.

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