

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)325

(Question Serial No. 3926)

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:

Please provide information on the details, arrangements and progress regarding the work of “continuing to improve the management and upgrade the facilities of public markets”.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2071)

Reply:

In her maiden Policy Address in October 2017, the Chief Executive pledges that, apart from building new public markets, the Government will conduct a comprehensive review of existing public markets and formulate specific improvement measures for both the facilities and their management in a systematic manner. As far as the hardware is concerned, the Government will allocate resources to improve the environment of existing public markets. One of the measures is to expedite the installation of air-conditioners.

In his Budget Speech delivered in February 2018, the Financial Secretary announced that \$2 billion would be earmarked for implementing a Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) over the next 10 years. This will entail a comprehensive review of public markets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), and improvement works including early installation of air-conditioning (A/C) systems, major overhaul or redevelopment, with a view to improving the operating environment of the markets and putting the land resources to most gainful use. The project scope may include A/C, re-design and re-zoning of stalls, re-configuration of layout, drainage improvement, upgrading works for fire services installations, electricity supply, toilet facilities, ventilation, lighting, signage, replacement of floor tiles, provision of barrier free access, façade and external wall decoration, lifts and escalators, etc. as appropriate.

A dedicated team, headed by a D2 officer and comprising 21 staff, has been set up in the Department to take forward the MMP and other reviews. Specifically, the Department would conduct a comprehensive review of public markets and formulate concrete and effective measures to improve the facilities, management and operating environment of public markets, and to consider adopting new approaches to their construction, design and

modus operandi when resuming the building of new public markets. The review will cover, for example, the positioning of public markets, management mode and structure, market operation resources, hardware improvement, ways to handle markets with relatively low patronage, etc. The Department would maintain close contact with stakeholders, collate and consolidate different views in formulating implementation proposals and action plans.

Separately, we started in 2015-16 a programme to replace aged escalators and lifts in phases to ensure smooth operation of escalators and lifts in public markets. To date, we have earmarked about \$300 million for the replacement of 87 escalators and 33 lifts in 26 markets. The replacement works are expected to be completed progressively in the coming years.

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