

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)356**

**(Question Serial No. 4477)**

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:

1. Given that there are many ethnic minority cleansing workers providing Government outsourced services, has the Government compiled statistics on the number of Nepalese, Thai and Indonesian workers?
2. As mentioned by the Financial Secretary, support for ethnic minority workers will be strengthened. In this connection, please set out (i) the details of the plans on how support will be given to the workers, and (ii) the financial provision and resources earmarked for helping ethnic minority workers remove language barriers they faced in the provision of Government outsourced services.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 285)

Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep the information sought.
2. The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

The initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. It will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

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