

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)157

(Question Serial No. 1100)

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 the rapid increase in population in rural areas in recent years, the demand for refuse disposal and refuse collection points (RCPs) has increased. RCPs are often full and quite a few people even deposit refuse outside the RCPs. Worse still, the service contractors of the Government have not stepped up the cleansing services for public places in response to the increasing quantity of waste, resulting in poor environmental hygiene conditions in rural areas. Meanwhile, the existing semi-enclosed RCPs commonly found in quite a number of rural areas are likely to give rise to environmental hygiene problems such as stench and rodent infestation. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

1. the current number and distribution of RCPs in rural areas and, among them, the number of those which were set up in the past 5 years;
2. whether the Government had allocated resources and the amount so allocated in the past 5 years for carrying out upgrading and refurbishment works for the existing RCPs;
3. the current number of RCPs in rural areas for which such works have yet to be carried out;
4. whether the Government will, making reference to the design of mini-RCPs in the community of Macau, consider reconstructing existing semi-enclosed mini-RCPs in rural areas into fully-enclosed ones, so as to reduce the stench and environmental hygiene problems.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. As at 31 December 2018, there were 830 village-type refuse collection points (RCPs)/RCPs with temporary structures managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and located in rural areas, i.e. in the New

Territories and on outlying islands. Among them, 38 were set up in the past 5 years. The distribution of these facilities is listed as follows –

District	No. of village-type RCPs/RCPs with temporary structures
Kwai Tsing	21
Tsuen Wan	47
Tuen Mun	54
Yuen Long	201
North	153
Tai Po	77
Sha Tin	54
Sai Kung	132
Islands	91

2. In the past 5 years, the Department replaced all remaining fiberglass RCPs (170 in total) by aluminium RCPs at a total expenditure of about \$8.6 million. The latter have a better outlook, make cleansing easier and are more durable.

- 3&4. The Department is trying out solar-powered aluminium RCPs in rural areas in place of existing aluminium ones to improve the hygiene conditions. The trial scheme will include installation of solar panels for energy supply and sensor-operated openings of the aluminium RCPs. Ventilation, illumination and fly-killing facilities will also be installed. The trial scheme is expected to be carried out from April to June 2019. If the trial proves satisfactory, the Department will consider extending the scheme to other RCPs in rural areas.

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