

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)166

(Question Serial No. 1435)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
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:

It is mentioned in paragraph 169 of the Budget Speech that a total expenditure of over \$600 million may be incurred in the coming 5 years for refurbishing by phases about 240 public toilets under the management of the Department, with a view to improving ventilation and other facilities, as well as enhancing their cleanliness and hygiene. In the connection, please advise on:

- 1) the number and names of the public toilets in 18 districts to be refurbished in tabular form, as well as the priority order and schedule of the refurbishment works; and
- 2) whether the Department will consider allocating more resources to increase the cleansing manpower and frequency, which are considered more important than hardware like decoration and works as far as cleanliness is concerned, of all public toilets, so as to improve their hygiene; if yes, the estimated expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)

Reply:

- 1) About 240 public toilets will be refurbished or facelifted in the coming 5 years from 2019-20 to 2023-24 at an estimated capital expenditure of \$600 million. The list of these public toilets is being worked out with regard to their conditions and level of utilisation. We are planning to commence the refurbishment or facelifiting works for about 40 public toilets in 2019-20. Further details such as the location and geographical distribution, as well as the estimated cost of the works of these toilets will be available at a later stage. The improvement programme will be gathering momentum when all the dedicated staff are in post.
- 2) To improve the cleansing condition of public toilets and to relieve the workload of toilet attendants, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has allocated additional resources to procure the services of dedicated deep cleansing

teams starting from March 2019 for toilets with a high utilisation rate or located at tourist spots. The Department plans to extend such services to all public toilets when respective street cleansing services contracts are renewed at an annual estimated expenditure of about \$60 million.

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