

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)178

(Question Serial No. 2223)

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:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20, it is stated that the Department will continue to take forward initiatives to enhance pest control services, particularly in respect of mosquitoes and rodents. What are the specific measures and the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 149)

Reply:

Pest control work, such as the control of mosquito, rodent and other disease vectors, is carried out by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). The Department carries out a series of operations including removal of water accumulation, as well as mosquito prevention and control work at potential breeding places over the territory. Emphasis will be placed on locations in close proximity to human residences, schools, construction sites, public housing estates, hospitals, illegal cultivation sites, waterfront public and private cargo working areas, cross boundary check points, typhoon shelters and cross boundary ferry terminals. The Department adopts multi-pronged strategies for rodent disinfection in designated target areas through elimination of the survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages, by improving environmental hygiene, stepping up rodent disinfection and enforcement actions. Emphasis will be placed on locations at markets, municipal services buildings, hawker bazaars, typhoon shelters, lanes adjacent to food premises and other problematic spots as well as their surroundings. For effective control of other disease vectors, the prevention and control measures will be targeted at sites where the pest frequents.

The Department carries out vector surveillance programmes to monitor the distribution and seasonal variation of vector mosquitoes and rodents including vector surveillance of dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis and malaria as well as rodent infestation surveys, rat-flea surveys and ad hoc surveys on other insect pests. In response to vector-borne diseases, the Department also conducts vector surveys in surrounding areas of all locations visited by the patients. The Department will continue to step up public education and publicity as well as

provide support and technical advice to other departments on mosquito and rodent prevention and control. It also provides training to staff of other departments to enhance their knowledge and skills in pest control.

The Department has been proactively applying technologies in the provision of pest control services. Dedicated staff will be assigned to explore technologies for trial use with a view to assessing their applicability and effectiveness before putting them to use in the territory.

The estimated expenditure on pest control services for 2019-20 is \$681 million. About 700 departmental staff and 1 800 contractors' staff are deployed to pest control services.

- End -