

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)375

(Question Serial No. 4996)

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:

The waste charging scheme is to be implemented by the Government. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

1. Will there be an increase in the number of in-house cleansing workers and outsourced cleansing workers of the Department? If yes, what is the estimated increase (please also provide the percentage of increase)?
2. In the light of the waste charging scheme, what is the additional manpower to be deployed by the Department to carry out enforcement work?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 2028)

Reply:

Municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, which is under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau, aims to create financial incentives to drive behavioural changes in waste generation and hence reduce overall waste disposal. Experiences in other cities which have implemented MSW charging show that it will take time to cultivate the necessary behavioural changes and the compliance situation will gradually improve with time, and fly-tipping problem is likely to aggravate with the implementation of MSW charging in the initial period.

Since 2017, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has enhanced the manpower deployment on street cleansing for maintaining and improving environmental hygiene, as well as set up about 20 dedicated enforcement teams (DETs) (each comprising 5 frontline enforcement officers) to tackle illegal dumping at black spots all over the territory. FEHD will set up additional DETs in 2019-20 to step up the enforcement work against illegal deposit of waste.

The enforcement actions in this regard will help improve our environmental hygiene while at the same time facilitate the necessary behavioural changes among the public in complying with the charging requirement. Moreover, both FEHD and the Environmental Protection Department are planning to expand the use of the internet-protocol (IP) cameras to deter fly-tipping at blackspots in public places. IP cameras have been installed at around 150 locations by end 2018. More IP cameras will be installed at 25 additional locations with a view to covering at least 170 locations in 2019.

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