

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)419

(Question Serial No. 6317)

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) Please set out in tabular form the details and expenditure of the “anti-mosquito” work in the past 5 years. How effective was the work in each year? What is the estimated expenditure in 2019-20?
- (2) Please set out in tabular form the details and expenditure of the “anti-rodent” work in the past 5 years. How effective was the work in each year? What is the estimated expenditure in 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) carries out a series of operations focusing on removal of accumulation of water and mosquito prevention and control at mosquito breeding places and potential breeding places over the territory. Emphasis is placed on locations in close proximity to residential areas, schools, construction sites, hospitals, illegal cultivation sites, waterfront public and private cargo working areas, cross boundary check points, typhoon shelters and cross boundary ferry terminals. Inter-departmental Anti-mosquito Campaign is launched in 3 phases each year. Anti-mosquito measures are strengthened while educational and publicity work are carried out with emphasis on eliminating mosquito breeding places. After the Anti-mosquito Campaign, 2 phases of territory-wide Thematic Mosquito Prevention and Control Special Operation would be arranged from 25 March 2019 to 5 April 2019 and from 1 July 2019 to 12 July 2019 to sustain the momentum of the mosquito control work at strategic areas.

The Department adopts multi-pronged strategies and the concept of rodent disinfection at designated target areas. The Department carries out rodent prevention and control work through elimination of the 3 basic survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages, including improving environmental hygiene, stepping up rodent disinfection and enforcement actions. Emphasis is 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. On top of routine anti-rodent work, the Department also takes the lead in organising annual territory-wide interdepartmental Anti-rodent Campaign to strengthen rodent prevention and control at target areas and remind the public of the importance of rodent prevention and control. The first phase of anti-rodent campaign was launched in January 2019 and the second phase would be launched in July 2019. To intensify district rodent prevention and control work, the Department will also launch 2 two-month anti-rodent operations at designated target areas in all districts in May and November 2019, and adopts multi-pronged strategies to combat the rodent problem, including elimination of food sources and hiding places of rodents, as well as blocking their passages, so as to work for a clean and hygienic community. The Department would also step up public education and publicity during the operations and arrange health talks for building management of private buildings, persons-in-charge of food premises, and market and hawker stall operators to provide information and technical advice on rodent prevention and control.

In addition, the Department provides technical advice to other government departments on pest control matters. The Department carries out the 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 survey, rat-flea survey and ad hoc surveys. In response to vector-borne diseases, the Department also conducts vector surveys in surrounding areas of all locations visited by the patients.

The expenditure on mosquito and rodent prevention and control work for the past 5 years and 2019-20 is provided below -

	Financial year					
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Revised Estimate)	2019-20 (Estimate)
Expenditure in mosquito prevention and control work (\$ million)	243.1	253.8	260.4	275.9	309.6	332.4
Expenditure in rodent prevention and control work (\$ million)	156.2	160.9	164.8	172.6	198.3	213.5

Information on mosquito and rodent control work over the past 5 years is provided below -

Mosquito control work carried out in the past 5 years					
Calendar year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of inspections	769 376	845 514	898 169	917 842	909 247

Mosquito control work carried out in the past 5 years					
Calendar year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of mosquito breeding places eliminated	49 425	55 353	57 103	57 701	63 635
Summons taken against mosquito breeding	59	61	45	292	206
Number of mosquito surveys conducted	4 182	4 369	5 322	5 284	6 077

Rodent control work carried out in the past 5 years					
Calendar year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of rodent trappings	52 601	54 533	53 477	54 438	60 432
Number of rodents trapped	11 945	12 942	13 192	14 704	16 504
Number of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks	46 093	52 397	57 209	70 121	93 815
Number of rodents poisoned	19 892	22 895	23 977	26 334	27 874
Number of rodent surveys conducted	1 579	1 784	1 838	1 969	2 033

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