

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)427

(Question Serial No. 3399)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please give the reason(s) for the continuous increase in the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated, as well as the details and effectiveness of the relevant work in 2018. Please also advise whether sufficient resources have been earmarked with relevant measures drawn up, including the deployment of manpower and allocation of resources, to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases; if yes, please give details of the work, the manpower and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 72)

Reply:

In 2017 and 2018, the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated was 57 701 and 63 635 respectively. The increase in 2018 was attributable to the enhanced mosquito prevention and control measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in public places in response to the local cases of dengue fever in that year. The Department has adopted an integrated approach in the prevention and control of pest. Under this approach, the Department implements a dengue vector surveillance programme to monitor the distribution of *Aedes albopictus* at selected areas, evaluates the effectiveness of mosquito prevention and control work carried out by various parties, and provides surveillance information to the public and for making timely adjustments to its mosquito control strategies and measures.

The Department also organises annual anti-mosquito campaigns and thematic mosquito prevention and control special operations on a territory-wide basis to enhance public awareness on the potential risks of mosquito-borne diseases, encourage community participation and promote coordination among government departments in anti-mosquito work. In addition to about 700 departmental staff deployed to perform pest control work (including mosquito control), the Department engages services contractors through roving teams to provide pest control services in the territory. As regards the winter season from November 2018 to February 2019, the Department increased the number of roving teams by 40 in order to maintain the same number of teams as in the wet season. The number of

roving teams this winter was maintained at about 310 (with a workforce of about 1 800) to strengthen mosquito prevention and control. Additional funding was provided to the Department for sustaining its anti-mosquito work throughout the winters of 2016, 2017 and 2018. The Department would keep up the work on mosquito prevention and control in 2019-20 with an estimated expenditure of \$332.4 million.

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