

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)435

(Question Serial No. 3339)

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:

In connection with the ethnic minority cleansing workers employed by the Government's outsourced service contractors, please advise this Committee on:

1. the number of Nepalese, Thai and Indonesian cleansing workers employed by the Government's outsourced service contractors in the past five years, and, if the figures are not available, whether the Government will consider making an estimate of the numbers; and
2. whether any financial provision and resources were earmarked in the past 5 years for the provision of translation service to the ethnic minority workers to help them understand the contracts and labour terms under which they worked for the Government's outsourced service contractors; if yes, the details (including the expenditure involved each year, the items of translation service and the estimated cost for the provision of each translation service etc.); if no, whether the Government will consider allocating funds for such service.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1172)

Reply:

1. The information sought is not available. There is no basis for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) to make an estimate.
2. The Department has not earmarked separate funding to provide interpretation services to ethnic minorities (EM) employed by the outsourced service contractors in the past 5 years. If EM workers require any assistance including that related to their employment contracts, the Department will help refer them to relevant departments for assistance as appropriate.

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