

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)245

(Question Serial No. 3980)

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 advise on the details and effectiveness of pest control work in 2019. 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 involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 260)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for pest prevention and control work, such as the control of mosquitoes, rodents and other disease vectors. The Department has carried out a series of anti-mosquito operations, including removal of water accumulation, as well as mosquito prevention and control work at potential mosquito breeding places over the territory. Emphasis will be placed on the surrounding areas of residential buildings, schools, construction sites, public housing estates, hospitals, illegal cultivation sites, waterfront public and private cargo handling areas, cross boundary check points, typhoon shelters, cross boundary ferry terminals, etc. The Department adopts multi-pronged strategies for effective 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 disease vectors, the prevention and control measures have to be targeted at sites where the pests frequent.

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. To prevent the spread of 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 and provide support and technical advice to other departments on mosquito and rodent prevention and control. It will also provide training for 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 are assigned to explore technologies on pest control and put on trials these technologies with a view to assessing their applicability and effectiveness before putting them into use in the territory.

In 2020-21, the Department's estimated expenditure on pest control services is \$667 million. About 740 in-house staff and 2 040 staff engaged by the contractors will provide pest control services.

- End -