

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)292

(Question Serial No. 3578)

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:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21 under the Programme that the Department will “take forward initiatives to enhance pest control services, particularly in respect of mosquitoes and rodents, to strengthen response to vector-borne diseases and vector surveillance programmes”. Please advise this Committee on the Government’s work and objectives with regard to rodent control, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

In 2020, on top of routine anti-rodent work, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will organise a territory-wide inter-departmental anti-rodent campaign to strengthen rodent prevention and control and step up public education. The first phase of the anti-rodent campaign was launched in January 2020 and the second phase will commence in July 2020. Moreover, the Department will launch 2 anti-rodent operations in designated target areas, each lasting for 8 weeks, in May and November 2020. Multi-pronged strategies, including elimination of food sources and hiding places of rodents as well as blockage of their passages, will be adopted in the operations. The Department will continue to step up public education and publicity, and provide support and technical advice to other departments on rodent prevention and control.

The Department adopts an integrated approach to rodent prevention and control. Such approach is premised on the recommendations and technical guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) and is in line with the anti-rodent approach adopted by the Mainland and other countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, as well as those in Europe and North America. The Department will continue to carry out rodent surveillance programmes, and the number of survey locations will be increased from 41 to 50. The Department will also keep in view the rodent prevention and control measures recommended by WHO and adopted by other countries, and explore the feasibility of applying technologies to improve the rodent surveillance and control work.

The estimated expenditure in 2020-21 on rodent prevention and control is \$209.1 million. About 740 in-house staff and 2 040 staff engaged by the contractors will provide pest control services.

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