

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)303

(Question Serial No. 4541)

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 2020-21?
- (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 2020-21?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 122)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department carries out a series of anti-mosquito operations that mainly include removal of water accumulation, as well as mosquito prevention and control work in mosquito breeding places and potential mosquito breeding places over the territory. Emphasis will be placed on the surrounding areas of residential buildings, schools, construction sites, hospitals, illegal cultivation sites, waterfront public and private cargo handling areas, cross boundary check points, typhoon shelters, cross boundary ferry terminals, etc. The Department conducts an inter-departmental anti-mosquito campaign in 3 phases annually. Apart from stepping up mosquito control measures, education and publicity work will also be strengthened. In particular, members of the public will be reminded to eliminate the mosquito breeding places. After the anti-mosquito campaign, 2 phases of the special thematic mosquito prevention and control operation will be arranged from 30 March 2020 to 17 April 2020 and from 29 June 2020 to 17 July 2020 to sustain the momentum of the mosquito control work at strategic areas.

For rodent control, the Department adopts multi-pronged strategies and carries out anti-rodent operations in designated target areas through elimination of the 3 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. Apart from the routine anti-rodent work, the Department conducts a territory-wide and inter-departmental anti-rodent campaign annually, with a view to stepping up rodent prevention and control in designated target areas and reminding the public of the importance of rodent prevention and control. The first phase of the anti-rodent campaign was launched in January 2020 and the second phase will commence in July 2020. Moreover, 2 anti-rodent operations, each lasting for 8 weeks, will be conducted in designated target areas in the territory in May and November 2020 respectively. Measures to be taken include elimination of food sources and hiding places of rodents as well as blockage of their passages, so as to keep the areas clean. The Department will step up public education and publicity during the anti-rodent operations and arrange health talks for building managers of private buildings, persons-in-charge of food premises, operators of market and hawker stalls, etc. 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 also 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. 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 expenditure on mosquito and rodent prevention and control work for the past 5 financial years and 2020-21 is provided below:

	Financial year					
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (Revised Estimate)	2020-21 (Estimate)
Expenditure on mosquito prevention and control work (\$ million)	253.8	260.4	275.9	309.6	317.2	322.0
Expenditure on rodent prevention and control work (\$ million)	160.9	164.8	172.6	198.3	207.1	209.1

Information on mosquito and rodent prevention and control work over the past 5 calendar years is provided below:

Mosquito prevention and control work carried out in the past 5 years					
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of inspections	845 514	898 169	917 842	909 247	847 088
Number of mosquito breeding places eliminated	55 353	57 103	57 701	63 635	65 795
Summons taken against mosquito breeding	61	45	292	206	173
Number of mosquito surveys	4 369	5 322	5 284	6 077	6 585

Rodent prevention and control work carried out in the past 5 years					
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of rodent trappings	54 533	53 477	54 438	60 432	68 490
Number of rodents caught	12 942	13 192	14 704	16 504	23 727
Number of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks	52 397	57 209	70 121	93 815	98 322
Number of rodents poisoned	22 895	23 977	26 334	27 874	30 259
Number of rodent surveys	1 784	1 838	1 969	2 033	1 958

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