

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)315**

**(Question Serial No. 4571)**

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:

Regarding sampling of imported foods for radiation level tests,

- a. please provide the number of samples taken, the number of unsatisfactory food samples detected and the places of origin of the unsatisfactory samples in the past 3 years; and
- b. has the Department stepped up the sampling and inspection programme in the 2020-21 Estimates? If yes, what are the details including the manpower and expenditure incurred? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 152)

Reply:

- a. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department conducts radiation checking on every consignment of food products imported from Japan with the use of hand-held survey meters and adopts a risk-based principle in collecting food samples for laboratory testing of radiation levels. Samples are also taken from food products imported from other economies for radiation testing under a risk-based approach. Radiation tests were conducted on around 89 000, 99 000 and 102 000 samples of imported food items in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. The testing results were satisfactory.
- b. In 2020-21, CFS will continue to adopt a risk-based principle in conducting radiation checking on food products imported from Japan and other economies. As this is part of the food surveillance and import control work and the subject officers also undertake other duties, we do not have a separate breakdown of the manpower and recurrent expenditure involved in this aspect of work.

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