

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 3401)

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 reason(s) for the continuous increase in the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated, as well as the details and effectiveness of the relevant 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 in this respect; if no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 73)

Reply:

In 2018 and 2019, the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated was 63 635 and 65 795 respectively. The increase in 2019 was attributable to the enhanced mosquito prevention and control measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in public places in response to the local cases of dengue fever recorded since 2018. Consolidating its experience, the inter-departmental Pest Control Steering Committee is of the view that early prevention is the most effective approach to pest control. The Government will commence and strengthen targeted operations to prevent mosquito breeding before the rainy season. Once the rainy season arrives, staff will be mobilised to conduct fogging operations to eliminate adult mosquitoes. The Government will collaborate with local communities to avoid massive mosquito breeding after the rainy season. The Department has adopted an integrated approach in the prevention and control of mosquitoes. Under this approach, the Department implements a dengue vector surveillance programme to monitor the distribution of *Aedes albopictus* at selected areas, evaluates the effectiveness of mosquito prevention and control work carried out by various parties, provides surveillance information for the public, and makes timely adjustments to its mosquito prevention and control strategies and measures.

The Department also organises annual anti-mosquito campaigns and special thematic mosquito prevention and control operations on a territory-wide basis to enhance public awareness on the potential risks of mosquito-borne diseases, encourage community participation and promote coordination among government departments in anti-mosquito

work. In addition to about 730 departmental staff deployed to perform pest control work (including mosquito control), the Department engages service contractors through roving teams to provide pest control services in the territory. During the winter season from November 2019 to February 2020, the Department increased the number of roving teams by approximately 40 in order to maintain the same number of teams as in the wet season. The number of roving teams deployed by the Department in the winter season was maintained at about 329 (with a workforce of about 1 970) to strengthen mosquito prevention and control. Additional funding was provided to the Department for sustaining its anti-mosquito work throughout the winter season in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The Department will keep up the work on mosquito prevention and control in 2020-21 with an estimated expenditure of \$322 million.

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