

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)012**

**(Question Serial No. 0649)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health  
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that a total additional funding of \$500 million will be allocated within two years for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to enhance environmental hygiene services, particularly strengthening the street cleansing and refuse collection services, stepping up measures on rodent control and improving the hygiene of public markets in response to the epidemic. Meanwhile, the Department will strengthen inspections and enforcement actions to raise the community's awareness about hygiene.

1. Please set out the types and quantities of anti-epidemic gears and disinfection materials provided monthly by the Department for frontline staff (including those employed on civil service terms and by outsourced contractors) performing environmental hygiene duties, and the expenditure involved, in the past 2 financial years; and
2. Please set out the details, including the types, scope of application, quantities and expenditure involved, of the new tools or technologies additionally procured by the Department to enhance street cleansing services in the past 2 financial years, and the details of additional items to be included in this financial year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) attaches great importance to the safety and occupational health of staff (including in-house staff and those employed by outsourced contractors). FEHD and public cleansing service contractors assess the risks of various working environment settings and take appropriate preventive measures, which include providing staff with adequate and suitable protective gears and safety training. In 2020-21 and 2021-22 (as at February 2022), about 14 million face masks, 250 000 pairs of gloves, 30 000 protective coverall suits and 50 000 alcohol-based hand rubs were received from the Government Logistics Department for use by in-house staff. FEHD does not keep monthly statistics on the personal protective equipment (PPE) distributed to staff.

For outsourced services, since it is stipulated in the contract that contractors are required to provide their staff with suitable PPEs, outsourced contractors are responsible for the specific arrangements. In this light, FEHD does not keep such statistics. To better protect outsourced staff, the Government has made special arrangements to provide additional masks for frontline staff of contractors since February 2020. In 2020-21 and 2021-22 (as at February 2022), about 28 million face masks were provided for frontline staff of contractors.

2. FEHD has been proactively applying technologies to enhance environmental hygiene and service quality through the use of machines and automation. A summary of the technologies and automation methods used for enhancing street cleansing services in 2020-21 and 2021-22 (as at February 2022) is provided at Annex I. The total expenditure is \$43 million. In 2022-23, FEHD will continue and extensively apply these technologies and automation methods, as well as put on trial the technologies set out in Annex II.

**Application of technologies in enhancing street cleansing services  
in 2020-21 and 2021-22**

- (a) **Internet Protocol (IP) Cameras**  
IP cameras have been installed at nearly 300 spots with rampant illegal deposit of refuse across the territory to step up surveillance against such offence and assist in law enforcement.
- (b) **360 Degrees Cameras**  
360 degrees cameras have been installed at 15 remote marine refuse priority sites to monitor the accumulation of shoreline refuse for timely clean-up actions.
- (c) **Solar-powered Aluminium Refuse Collection Points (RCPs)**  
Solar-powered aluminium RCPs have been put on trial at 44 rural sites for enhancement of environmental hygiene. As the trial results are satisfactory, their use will be extended to other suitable sites.
- (d) **Mini-mechanical Sweepers**  
Mini-mechanical sweepers, which are more compact and flexible, have been used for street sweeping in designated rural areas of Yuen Long District to enhance efficiency.
- (e) **Solar-powered Compacting Refuse Bins (CRBs)**  
The design of solar-powered CRBs has been further improved with higher compaction efficiency and greater refuse storage capacity. They are being put on trial and their effectiveness is being assessed.
- (f) **Solar-powered Mobile Refuse Compactors (MRCs)**  
Solar-powered MRCs with greater refuse storage capacity are used at 9 RCPs in rural areas of Yuen Long District for better service efficiency and environmental hygiene.

**Application of technologies in enhancing street cleansing services  
in the pipeline for 2022-23**

- (a) **Mini-mechanical Sweepers**  
More versatile and efficient mini-mechanical sweepers which can ride on both ordinary and narrow roads are to be introduced. They will be put on trial first in suitable districts to enhance street sweeping effectiveness progressively.
  
- (b) **On-board Refuse Bin Cleaners (RBCs)**  
Fully enclosed on-board RBCs equipped with hot water or disinfectants for washing and disinfection of refuse bins are to be put on trial for better refuse bin cleaning effectiveness.

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