

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 2867)

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The aim of the Programme is to ensure that food available for human consumption is wholesome, hygienic and safe, and to safeguard public health through testing and control of live food animals. The Japanese Government plans to discharge treated nuclear wastewater into the ocean in 2023, this has aroused public concern over food safety and the marine ecosystem. The Department has indicated its intention to increase the testing volume of imported Japanese food products, and conduct targeted testing on specific radioactive substances with a risk-based approach. In particular, the proportion of aquatic products to be tested will be increased. Please advise this Committee of:

1. the current proportion of aquatic products to be tested and the intended increase in the said proportion; and
2. the expenditure on additional equipment for testing specific radioactive substances.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. At present, Japanese aquatic products accounts for about 37% of the total number of Japanese food products tested for radioactivity. In response to Japan's wastewater discharge plan, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has planned to increase the radiological tests on imported Japanese food products, particularly those on aquatic products and targeted testing of specific radioactive substances. At present, a task force set up by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is conducting a review on the safety of Japan's discharge plan. CFS will take into account all relevant factors, including IAEA's final report and conclusion, as well as the relevant information and assessment results, before determining the details of the specific measures.

2. In response to Japan's wastewater discharge plan, CFS has procured equipment to enhance its capability in testing specific radioactive substances. The expenditure involved is \$2.13 million.

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