

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)120

(Question Serial No. 3199)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department helps organise talks for primary and secondary schools on food safety and environmental hygiene. Visits by the Mobile Education Centre (MEC) under the Department are also arranged to schools, housing estates and public parks to provide the public with more information on food, personal and environmental hygiene. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the number of applications received from primary and secondary schools for organising talks on food safety and environmental hygiene in the past 3 years, and the number of those being arranged and organised within half a year;
2. the number of days of visits made and the total number of hours of exhibitions held by the MEC in each of the past 3 years;
3. the overall attendance of the MEC in each of the past 3 years;
4. the recurrent operating expenses of the MEC in each of the past 3 years; and
5. whether the contents of talks on food safety and environmental hygiene or exhibitions organised by the MEC were updated to boost attendance in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

1. In the past 3 years (2020 to 2022), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department received 86, 186 and 238 applications respectively from primary and secondary schools for organising talks on food safety and environmental hygiene. 43 of the applications were withdrawn by the schools themselves on grounds such as the COVID-19 pandemic, while for the remaining 467 applications, the talks were successfully organised within half a year.

2. to 4. Information on the Mobile Education Centre (MEC) (a publicity vehicle) of the Department in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2020	2021*	2022
Number of days with visits made	70	2	67
Total number of hours of exhibitions held	140	4	134
Overall attendance	8 440	750	9 835
Recurrent operating expenses (\$) #	15,300	8,400	28,400

* The MEC had its service suspended for repair during most of the time of 2021. As some vehicle components were no longer supplied, a new publicity vehicle with a brand new look and enriched exhibition contents was put into service in 2022.

The recurrent operating expenses of the MEC were mainly for fuel as well as repair and maintenance.

5. The contents of talks on food safety and environmental hygiene are updated from time to time to cater for the needs of different target groups. The new-generation MEC, which has come into service since 2022, offers more content-enriched exhibitions to boost attendance. Televisions are installed inside and at the exterior part of the vehicle to broadcast information and videos. Inside the vehicle, touch screen computers are equipped for display of thematic information and interactive games, coupled with the Model Corner, visitors can learn more about personal, household and environmental hygiene, food safety, pest control and green burial from various aspects.

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