

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)065

(Question Serial No. 0934)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned under Programme (2) that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will strengthen street cleansing, refuse collection and clearance work and step up related enforcement and prosecution. Nevertheless, many streets and bridges are still plagued with refuse as pointed out by some trade members. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the effectiveness of street cleansing, refuse collection and clearance work in 2023-24, and the specific details of efforts to be made in the coming year;
- 2) the numbers of enforcement and prosecution actions taken in 2023-24; and
- 3) the staff establishment involved in carrying out the above work in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-po (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

- 1) In 2023-24, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department endeavoured to provide efficient cleansing services, including street sweeping, refuse collection and other cleansing services. All streets are manually swept at least once every day. In the main commercial and tourist areas, streets are swept an average of 4 times a day, and up to 8 times a day in the busiest pedestrian areas. In addition to manual sweeping, mechanical street sweepers and street washing vehicles are used by the Department and cleansing service contractors for sweeping highways and flyovers and washing streets, with a frequency subject to the needs of the area served. As regards refuse collection services, the Department manages 163 off-street refuse collection points (RCPs), 8 temporary RCPs, around 900 village-type RCPs/RCPs with temporary structures, and about 2 300 bin sites. Modern refuse collection vehicles are used for refuse collection in various districts, with an average of around 5 820 tonnes of domestic waste collected each day. The Department also supports the Task Force on District Governance led by the Deputy Chief Secretary to eliminate the environmental hygiene blackspots. In 2023, the Department conducted over 20 000 special cleansing operations at 244 hygiene blackspots under its purview. More than 90% of these blackspots have been removed.

In the coming year, the Department will continue its efforts to provide efficient cleansing services and support the Task Force on District Governance led by the Deputy Chief Secretary to eliminate the environmental hygiene blackspots, with a view to achieving the target set in the 2023 Policy Address, that is, to remove by end-2024, 60% of the remaining environmental hygiene blackspots as compared to end-2023.

- 2) In 2023, about 39 000 fixed penalty notices and about 60 summons were issued against littering.
- 3) In 2024-25, there will be approximately 13 200 staff of the Department and cleansing service contractors providing street cleansing and refuse collection services. On the enforcement front, there will be a total of 272 members in 55 dedicated enforcement teams in 2024-25. The foremen in our cleansing sections, and hawker control teams will also take enforcement actions against illegal dumping in their routine duties.

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