

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)066**

**(Question Serial No. 0935)**

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 enhance the hardware of refuse collection facilities in rural areas. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) whether the Department has reviewed the efficiency of such facilities so as to reduce the illegal deposit of bulky refuse or hardware on the streets;
- 2) the utilisation rates and user-friendliness of the relevant facilities; and
- 3) whether the Department will consider stepping up publicity to increase the utilisation rates.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The Government announced in the 2022 Policy Address that fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design (including solar-powered mobile refuse compactors, solar-powered compacting refuse bins and solar-powered aluminium refuse collection points (RCPs)/aluminium RCPs with foot pedals) will be put in place at some 500 priority rural locations. Equipped with a solar sensor or foot pedal for touchless control in the opening, these refuse collection facilities are more convenient and hygienic to use than the conventional large-sized lift-top waste containers. The fully-enclosed design can also prevent pest and rodent infestation as well as odour problem which may occur if the lids are not properly closed. Moreover, some of these new facilities are equipped with a compacting function which will compact refuse when the refuse yield reaches a certain level. As a result, more refuse can be stored, thereby reducing the need for providing more waste containers.

Between 2022 and 2023, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department put in place fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design at about 150 rural locations. The Department is planning to progressively provide such facilities at some 350 other locations between 2024 and 2026.

The Department has maintained close communication with representatives, residents and relevant stakeholders of rural areas on the provision and use of fully-enclosed refuse

collection facilities with new design, and has promoted to them the way of proper disposal of refuse to further increase the utilisation rates of refuse collection facilities.

According to the Department's evaluation, with the new fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with solar-sensitive or foot-pedal openings in place, their touchless control functions will help mitigate the problem of illegal deposit of refuse and improve the hygiene condition in rural areas. There was generally positive feedback from the community stakeholders, who opined that the new facilities can practically enhance the environmental hygiene of rural areas.

The Department does not maintain a breakdown of the utilisation rates of the fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design.

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