

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 1141)

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:

In response to Japan's nuclear wastewater discharge plan, the Centre for Food Safety increased the testing volume of imported Japanese food products, and conducted targeted testing for specific radioactive substances with a risk-based approach last year. In particular, the proportion of aquatic food products tested were increased. Please set out the results of the Government's testing work targeted on imported Japanese food products, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved, in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

In response to Japan's nuclear-contaminated water discharge plan, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has, since mid-June 2023, expanded the scope of testing of radiation levels of imported Japanese food to cover all aquatic products imported from Japan, which will only be allowed to be supplied in the market after confirmation that the testing results are satisfactory.

In 2023, CFS took more than 42 000 samples of imported Japanese food for radiation testing, about 23 000 of which were collected after the commencement of the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water (including about 15 000 samples of aquatic products and related products, seaweed and sea salt). In 2023, the radiation levels of the food samples tested did not exceed the guideline levels of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. CFS will continue to step up testing on imported Japanese food. Based on projections from the testing approach and data of 2023, it is estimated that about 80 000 samples of imported Japanese food will be collected for radiation testing in 2024-25, but the actual figures will depend on the imported consignments, their quantity and the testing strategy for 2024-25.

The majority of staff responsible for radiation monitoring of imported Japanese food are also tasked with other import control work. CFS does not have a breakdown of the manpower deployed for radiation monitoring of imported Japanese food. The manpower for the aforementioned work and the expenditure in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are set out below:

Year	Manpower (number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	102	63.34
2024-25 (Estimate)	102	69.20

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