

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)112

(Question Serial No. 1695)

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:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention, it is mentioned that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to implement and trial new measures to enhance and sustain the effectiveness of its rodent control work, including continuing with the overnight rodent control operations and trial use of new rodent control technologies and tools. The Department will also strengthen co-operation with and provide necessary support for other departments and sectors to enhance rodent control. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- a) What are the specific rodent control technologies and tools trialed by the Department? What is the percentage of the new measures out of the overall rodent control measures? What are the results of the Department's preliminary assessment of their effectiveness?
- b) What are the specific departments that the Department co-operates with in rodent control and what are the concrete co-operation measures?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- a) In the past year (2023-24), the rodent control technologies and tools adopted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), their effectiveness and the expenditure involved are as follows:

Rodent control technology and tool	Effectiveness	Expenditure in 2023-24
Thermal imaging camera surveillance system	FEHD conducted trials on thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence analytical function in 2020 and found it effective in facilitating objective assessment of rodent infestation situation. The equipment has been widely employed in the strategic anti-rodent operations.	About \$5.77 million

Rodent control technology and tool	Effectiveness	Expenditure in 2023-24
	Moreover, FEHD has fully adopted thermal imaging cameras for conducting the Rodent Activity Survey as a replacement for the Rodent Infestation Survey from 2024 onwards to enhance rodent surveillance in districts and deploy more effective anti-rodent actions in blackspots.	
Placing poisonous baits in a T-shaped bait box	The bait box was tested between October and November 2020. Test results showed that the T-shaped bait box was more effective than ordinary rectangular bait boxes in attracting rodents to enter and consume the baits. The equipment has been widely employed.	About \$140,000
Alcohol rodent trapping device	FEHD has conducted trials progressively on alcohol rodent trapping devices in public markets and refuse collection points since October 2022. The results are positive. The equipment will be used in suitable places as necessary.	About \$5.78 million
Glue trap	FEHD has tried out the application of glue traps in public markets with more serious rodent infestation as an additional measure for rodent disinfection since November 2022. Positive results have been achieved, and the rodent infestation problem in public markets has been alleviated effectively. The equipment will be used in suitable indoor venues, such as markets and refuse collection points, as necessary.	About \$2 million

The above expenditures were about \$13.69 million in total, which accounted for about 2% of the overall expenditure of the pest control services (including rodent and mosquito prevention and control) of FEHD in the year.

- b) Apart from collaborating with various government departments to conduct 2 rounds of territory-wide and inter-departmental anti-rodent campaign each year, FEHD has been maintaining close liaison with different departments and providing them with technical

support to facilitate their adoption of effective rodent prevention and control measures in areas under their management, which includes:

- (i) conducting exchanges and communicating with the relevant departments (including the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Drainage Services Department, the Education Bureau, the Government Logistics Department, the Home Affairs Department, the Housing Department, the Lands Department and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department) through the Inter-departmental Working Group on Pest Prevention and Control to step up collaboration and enhance the overall level of rodent control work of government departments;
- (ii) providing contract templates on pest control to the contract management units of the relevant government departments;
- (iii) arranging workshops and talks regarding pest control for the relevant departments, assisting them to adopt effective rodent prevention and control measures in the venues under their management as well as to strengthen their monitoring of the performance and effectiveness of their outsourced contractors;
- (iv) formulating the Code of Practice for Rodent Management and making a series of videos on rodent control for reference by the pest control staff of the relevant government departments; and
- (v) setting up the Working Group on Rodent Prevention and Control in Public Rental Housing Estates with the Housing Department to implement and strengthen rodent control work in public rental housing estates.

In case there is rodent infestation in venues under the management of other departments, FEHD will conduct joint site inspections with the departments concerned and take anti-rodent actions inside and outside the venues concurrently so as to enhance the effectiveness of rodent control.

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