

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 3525)

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:

In view of serious fly-tipping in rural areas in the New Territories, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) How many refuse collection points are there in rural areas and how are they distributed?
- (2) How much manpower and financial resources have been allocated to tackle the problem of fly-tipping in rural areas? Please provide the details.
- (3) What is the result of the “pilot scheme of using solar-powered refuse compactors” implemented by the Government?
- (4) Further to the above question, what is the damage rate of the refuse compactors so far? What is the mean time to repair?
- (5) How many refuse blackspots in rural areas have been installed with closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs)? What is their effectiveness? Will installation of additional CCTVs be considered in the future?
- (6) What is the progress of the installation of global positioning systems in such vehicles as dump trucks by the Government?
- (7) In the light of the waste charging scheme to be implemented this year, what are the targeted measures in place to tackle the problem of fly-tipping in rural areas?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

- (1) In 2023, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) managed 858 village-type refuse collection points (RCPs)/RCPs with temporary structures in the New Territories and outlying islands (mainly rural areas). Information on their number and distribution is as follows:

| District | Number of village-type RCPs/ RCPs with temporary structures |
|-----------------|--|
| Kwai Tsing | 22 |
| Tsuen Wan | 50 |

| District | Number of village-type RCPs/ RCPs with temporary structures |
|-----------------|--|
| Tuen Mun | 56 |
| Yuen Long | 187 |
| North | 157 |
| Tai Po | 104 |
| Sha Tin | 53 |
| Sai Kung | 134 |
| Islands | 95 |

(2), (5)&(7) FEHD spares no effort in combating illegal dumping in rural areas and maintaining environmental hygiene. With a view to enhancing enforcement efficiency, resources are deployed flexibly according to actual circumstances and enforcement actions are taken in a multi-pronged approach, which includes arranging dedicated enforcement teams in plain clothes to take enforcement actions and installing Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at illegal refuse deposit blackspots so that prosecutions can be instituted or more effective enforcement actions can be planned through analysis of the information from the video footages.

In 2024-25, there will be a total of 272 members in 55 dedicated enforcement teams, an increase of about 5% over 260 members in 52 teams in 2023-24. The dedicated teams will be flexibly deployed to different districts for inspections and enforcement actions. Besides, the foremen in the Cleansing Sections, and the Hawker Control Teams will also take enforcement actions against illegal dumping when performing their routine duties. Therefore, a breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in combating the problem of illegal dumping in rural areas is not available.

At present, about 440 illegal refuse deposit blackspots in various districts across the territory have been installed with IP cameras, 176 of which are located in rural areas. In 2023, 4 623 Fixed Penalty Notices and 886 summonses were issued to offenders based on the information from the video footages of the IP cameras. While more than 50% (467) of the cases were successfully convicted, some of the cases are still pending the court's hearing. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for the installation and operation of IP cameras is about \$8 million. FEHD will continue to review the situation of illegal refuse deposit blackspots in rural areas, including the problem of refuse disposal that may arise from the implementation of waste charging, and deploy resources effectively to tackle the issue having regard to the actual needs and circumstances.

(3)&(4) To further enhance the hardware of refuse collection facilities in rural areas and improve the environmental hygiene in the vicinity, since 2020, FEHD has launched a pilot scheme by placing solar-powered mobile refuse compactors (MRCs) in RCPs in rural areas with a higher refuse yield, so as to handle household refuse of the nearby residents more effectively. Adjustments were

made to the application of MRCs in the light of operational experience, cost-effectiveness, views of the community stakeholders, etc.

Subsequently, the Government announced in the 2022 Policy Address that fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design such as MRCs would be put in place at some 500 priority rural locations. Between 2022 and 2023, FEHD put in place fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design at about 150 rural locations. FEHD is planning to progressively provide such facilities at some 350 locations between 2024 and 2026.

At present, MRCs have been put in place at 18 suitable rural locations. Each MRC can handle and store around 4 to 8 tonnes of household refuse each time (equivalent to the capacity of 40 to 80 660-litre waste containers), which can greatly reduce the space for storing refuse. The enclosed design can effectively prevent pest infestation and remove odour. There was generally positive feedback from the community stakeholders, who opined that the new facilities could practically enhance the environmental hygiene of rural areas.

In the past year, there were a total of 10 cases of MRC breakdown. FEHD staff will inspect the operation of MRCs regularly and inform the contractor for repair and maintenance as necessary to ensure smooth operation of the facilities. FEHD does not maintain the statistics on the damage rate and mean time to repair of MRCs.

- (6) The Government has taken the lead to require contractors to install Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking devices in their construction waste collection vehicles under larger-scale public works contracts. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has, in collaboration with the Development Bureau, co-ordinated with relevant works departments to install the above-mentioned devices in construction waste collection vehicles under 32 public works contracts on a trial basis. The relevant project offices will strengthen the monitoring of vehicles installed with GPS tracking devices under their contracts as appropriate and necessary. EPD will continue to pursue the adoption of GPS in construction waste collection vehicles under suitable public works contracts to enhance management of construction waste.

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