

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****EEB(F)155****(Question Serial No. 3496)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

It is stated in the Policy Measures of the Policy Address that the Government will improve environmental hygiene by putting in place fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design at 400 rural locations in the next 3 years following installation of such facilities at over 100 locations in 2022. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many refuse collection points (RCPs) are there in rural areas and how are they distributed (how many of which are fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design)?
- (b) How many refuse blackspots in rural areas over the territory have been installed with closed-circuit televisions?
- (c) What is the effectiveness of providing RCPs in rural areas?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 67)Reply:

- (a)&(c) At present, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department manages 858 village-type refuse collection points (RCPs)/RCPs with temporary structures in rural areas. Information on their number and distribution is as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of village-type RCPs/ RCPs with temporary structures</b>
Kwai Tsing	22
Tsuen Wan	50
Tuen Mun	56
Yuen Long	187
North	157
Tai Po	104
Sha Tin	53
Sai Kung	134
Islands	95

To further enhance the hardware of refuse collection facilities in rural areas and improve the environmental hygiene in the vicinity, the Government announced in the 2022 Policy Address that fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design (including solar-powered mobile refuse compactors (MRCs), solar-powered compacting refuse bins (CRBs) and solar-powered aluminium RCPs/aluminium RCPs with foot pedals) will be put in place at some 500 priority rural locations. The Department has provided fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design at some 150 rural locations from 2022 to 2023, and plans to progressively provide such facilities at some 350 locations from 2024 to 2026.

Taking into account the refuse collection facilities with new design that have been put on trial earlier, a total of 18 MRCs, 32 sets of CRBs and 218 solar-powered aluminium RCPs/aluminium RCPs with foot pedals have been put in place in rural areas. Equipped with a sensor or foot pedal for touchless control of the inlet, these fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design are more convenient and hygienic to use than the conventional large-sized lift-top waste containers. The fully-enclosed design can also prevent pest 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.

According to the Department's assessment, the placing of the new fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities 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.

- (b) At present, about 440 illegal refuse deposit blackspots in various districts across the territory have been installed with Internet Protocol cameras, 176 of which are located in rural areas. The Department will institute prosecutions or plan more effective enforcement actions through analysis of the information from the video footages, so as to enhance enforcement efficiency.

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