

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-EEB(F)001

(Question Serial No. SV021)

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:

The Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots was launched in August 2022. At present, there are still over 700 hygiene blackspots across the territory. After the launch, a breakdown of the hygiene blackspots by district shows that some districts have seen their hygiene blackspots removed or their hygiene conditions improved. Please explain the Government's criteria for having a hygiene blackspot removed and its condition improved, the ways to evaluate the appropriateness of the annual recurrent expenditure on environmental hygiene, and the strategies for improving environmental hygiene in future.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The Government has always attached great importance to district environmental hygiene. Under the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots, various government departments focus on tackling about a total of 740 environmental hygiene blackspots across the territory and strengthen the cleansing of about 4 000 public places.

In 2023, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department conducted more than 20 000 special cleansing operations at 244 hygiene blackspots under its purview and stepped up inspection and enforcement at the same time. According to the review of the Department in mid-March 2024, more than 90% of the hygiene blackspots under its purview are suitable for removal from the list as the hygiene conditions of which have been significantly improved. Nonetheless, to ensure continuous improvement in the environmental hygiene conditions of these spots, the Government is not going to remove them from the list at this stage. The Department will continue to tackle hygiene blackspots through deployment of resources.

The Task Force on District Governance (TFDG), which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, will keep abreast of the latest situation of the hygiene blackspots, while various government departments will continue to take appropriate measures to step up efforts in cleansing, inspections and law enforcement so as to achieve the goal of keeping the city clean in the long term. The Department spares no effort to assist the work of the TFDG and will deploy resources flexibly to enhance the work in this regard.

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