

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 1194)

Head: (91) Lands Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Land Administration
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms. Bernadette LINN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 32):

In respect of streamlining and expediting the processing of lease modifications, land exchanges and premium assessments:

1. What are the estimated staffing level and expenditure required for the work in 2014-15? What are the changes as compared with 2013-14?
2. Has any specific target been set for the work? If yes, what are the details and to what extent, by estimation, will the processing of lease modifications, land exchanges and premium assessments be enhanced in 2014-15? If no, what are the reasons?
3. It is mentioned in this year's Policy Address that a Pilot Scheme for Arbitration on Land Premium will be introduced. What is the progress of implementing the Scheme? When will it be introduced at the earliest? Has the Department reserved any provision and manpower to take forward the Scheme after its introduction? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

1. The processing of lease modification and land exchange applications and premium assessments cuts across different offices in the Lands Department (Lands D). Some staff work on the relevant areas full-time while others as part of their overall duties. We do not have a precise estimate on the number of staff and expenditure involved.
2. In general, Lands D's target is to issue provisional basic terms offer or provide an indication of in-principle agreement in respect of lease modification/land exchange applications within 22 weeks upon receipt of a valid application (if the application is not rejected). As our staff are also dealing with other types of work which include the handling of a considerable number of land sale sites in 2014-15, we do not anticipate adjustment of this target.

3. Lands D is working with the Development Bureau and the relevant departments including the Department of Justice to map out the implementation details for the Pilot Scheme for Arbitration on Land Premium. The target is to announce the arrangements around mid-2014. We will give due consideration to the resource requirements having regard to those implementation arrangements.