

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 5413)

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. 48):

It is mentioned under Indicators that the numbers of surveyed structures demolished on grounds of slope safety for 2012 and 2013 are 13 and 14, but the number is estimated to surge to 50 in 2014. Please advise whether these structures were just built last year or have already existed for years. If it is the latter, why hasn't the Lands Department demolished the structures? What has caused the structures to become not so safe that they must be demolished this year?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

Surveyed structures are those recorded in the Squatter Control Survey conducted in 1982 and are tolerated on a temporary basis until they cease to exist or are required to be cleared for the purposes of development, safety or environmental reasons.

The indicators included in the Controlling Officer's Report are the numbers of surveyed structures demolished by the Lands Department (Lands D) under non-development clearance on slope safety grounds. For such clearances, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will make clearance recommendations to Lands D in respect of those surveyed structures exposed to immediate and obvious danger due to landslides (i.e. Category 1 structures) and those especially vulnerable to landslides during periods of heavy rain due to their close proximity to potentially unstable slopes (i.e. Category 2 structures). Demolition of Category 1 structures is compulsory and will be backed up by forced eviction if necessary. Demolition of Category 2 structures is subject to the occupants voluntarily vacating the structures through advice and persuasion.

Thirteen and 14 surveyed structures were demolished under non-development clearance in 2012 and 2013 respectively. It is estimated that 50 surveyed structures will be cleared in 2014 but the actual number will depend on whether those occupants in Category 2 structures are willing to accept the clearance.