

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)365**

**(Question Serial No. 5808)**

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. 359):

1. In the past two years (i.e. 2012 and 2013), how much time and resources has been spent by the Lands Department on inspecting unleased government land? How many complaints about suspected cases of unlawful occupation of government land have been received? How many cases of unlawful occupation of unleased government land have been identified? What is the area of land involved?
2. How many cases of unlawful occupation have led to prosecutions in the past two years? How many were convicted? Has all the unlawfully occupied land been re-instated? If not, why not?
3. How many cases of unlawful occupation of government land finally became lawful upon approval of the application by the unlawful occupier to lease the land?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. Conducting inspections of government sites is part of the overall government land control work carried out by the Lands Department (Lands D). The total staff expenditure involved in carrying out the government land control work was about \$76 million in 2012-13 and \$78 million in 2013-14. There is no separate breakdown in respect of the expenditure for conducting inspections. Lands D received 8 657 complaint cases in 2012 and 9 637 complaint cases in 2013 of suspected unlawful occupation of government land. Lands D confirmed 7 668 cases in 2012 and 7 589 cases in 2013 of unlawful occupation on unleased government land. Lands D has no readily available information on the area of such land involved.
2. Where the occupants have not complied with Lands D's notices to cease the unlawful occupation and clear the land, Lands D will normally arrange for clearance. In addition, Lands D initiated 19 prosecutions in 2012 with all of the offenders convicted. In 2013, 29 prosecutions were instituted and 22 of the offenders were convicted. If unlawful

occupation of government land continues after conviction, Lands D will demolish or fence off the structures as far as practicable.

3. There were 140 and 64 cases of regularisation of unlawful occupation of government land in 2012 and 2013 respectively.