

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)394**

**(Question Serial No. 4859)**

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. 76):

Over the past five years, how many applications for rebuilding small houses or squatter structures has the Lands Department received respectively? What are the numbers of backlog cases and cases being processed? On average, how long does it take for the Department to process an application for rebuilding small houses or squatter structures? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower required for handling this task in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Rebuilding of New Territories Exempted Houses including Small Houses

Over the past five calendar years (from 2009 to 2013), the number of applications received for rebuilding New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) (including small houses) was 3 118. As at 28 February 2014, the number of rebuilding applications being processed was 1 992 and no application was pending processing.

For straightforward cases, the Lands Department (Lands D) takes around eight months to approve an application for rebuilding NTEHs. For complicated cases, the processing time would be longer if there are issues such as local objections, land title or boundary problems or requirements imposed by other regulatory authorities that would need to be resolved.

The number of posts involved in handling rebuilding applications is 71 and the estimated staff expenditure is \$31.1 million in 2014-15. As some of the staff responsible for rebuilding applications also carry out other duties, we are unable to provide a separate breakdown on the number of staff and staff cost solely for handling rebuilding applications.

Rebuilding of Squatter Structures for Domestic Use

Squatter structures in the New Territories include those structures covered by the Squatter Structure Survey in 1982 and other licences such as Government Land Licences, Modification of Tenancy Permits, Short Term Tenancies or Short Term Waivers.

Over the past five calendar years (from 2009 to 2013), the number of applications received for rebuilding squatter structures for domestic use was 192. As at 28 February 2014, the number of rebuilding applications being processed was 44 and no application was pending processing. Processing of applications for rebuilding of squatter structures for domestic use within their existing dimensions is, in general, completed within 48 weeks.

The processing of applications for rebuilding squatter structures for domestic use is part of the land management work of Lands D. Given the relatively small number of cases involved, there is no separate breakdown in respect of the specific expenditure and manpower involved in processing these applications.