

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)404

(Question Serial No. 5163)

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. 68):

In 2014-15, the Lands Department will expedite the processing of applications in respect of revitalisation of industrial buildings. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the average time and expenditure required for processing applications for revitalisation of industrial buildings; and
- (2) whether any target, including the average time and expenditure required, has been set for expediting the processing of these applications? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The responses to (1) and (2) of the question are set out as follows :

- (1) The processing time of applications under the revitalisation measures of industrial buildings varies from case to case, depending on various factors such as the complexity of the case and the time taken by the applicants to submit the required information and/or to respond to the requests for clarification. Since April 2010 when the Government implemented a package of measures to facilitate revitalisation of industrial buildings through redevelopment and wholesale conversion and up to end February 2014, the Lands Department (Lands D) had received 121 applications and approved 92 of these applications (with another 16 applications under processing and 13 applications withdrawn or rejected during processing). A dedicated team has been set up in Lands D to process the applications. The team now comprises 12 staff and the staff expenditure in 2013-14 is about \$5.7 million. The above staff expenditure has not yet taken into account the involvement of other sections of Lands D involved in the processing work on a part-time basis.
- (2) Given the variations in circumstances across individual cases, we are not able to set a representative target on the average processing time. Lands D will continue to give

priority to the processing of applications received by maintaining the dedicated team involving the same level of expenditure in 2014-15.