

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)468****(Question Serial No. 6308)**Head: (701) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Land AcquisitionSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms. Bernadette LINN)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 369):

1. How many claims for "Tun Fu" allowance were received by the Government in each of the past five years? Please provide a breakdown of the claims by name of village, allowance granted and specific use related to the allowance according to the dates on which they were granted.
2. Has the Government verified whether the expenditure items were cost-effective? If yes, what specific actions and procedures have been taken for verification? If not, why not? How does the Government ensure that the allowances will be well spent and rewarding?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, KennethReply:

1. For the past five years (2009-10 to 2013-14), the Lands Department received a total of 63 claims for "Tun Fu" allowance. The number of claims received in each year is tabulated below:-

Year	Number of Claims Received
2009-10	38
2010-11	7
2011-12	9
2012-13	6
2013-14 (up to end of February 2014)	3

As to the amount of allowance granted, the villages involved and the specific use related to the allowance, the details are shown below:-

Year	Amount Granted	Villages Involved	Specific Use
2009-10	\$438,100	Tai Po District (16 villages) Yuen Long District (1 village) Sha Tin District (3 villages) North District (1 village)	“Tun Fu” ceremonies covering fung shui master’s fee, “Tun Fu” master’s fee, purchase of joss-papers and sticks, food offered in the ceremonies etc.
2010-11	\$1,278,000	Tai Po District (6 villages) Yuen Long District (13 villages) Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing District (1 village) Sha Tin District (1 village)	
2011-12	\$5,176,300	Tai Po District (2 villages) Yuen Long District (41 villages) Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing District (1 village) Sha Tin District (1 village) Tuen Mun (1 village) North District (1 village)	
2012-13	\$407,400	Tai Po District (7 villages) Yuen Long District (1 village) North District (1 village)	
2013-14 (up to end of February 2014)	\$1,100,000	Tuen Mun (1 village) Islands District (18 villages)	

2. The granting of “Tun Fu” allowance aims to facilitate the performance of “Tun Fu” ceremonies for indigenous villages affected by public works projects to address the villagers’ fung shui concerns, thereby facilitating timely completion of public projects. There are established guidelines in handling “Tun Fu” claims from indigenous villages. All claims must be fully justified and a list of itemised costs in respect of the “Tun Fu” ceremonies must be provided for consideration. In determining the amount of “Tun Fu” allowance, the reasonableness of the claim with reference to past similar claims, the distance between the locations of public works and the villages or sites where fung shui is said to be affected, the relevant deity spots, village size and population will be taken into account. Each village may only submit one single claim in respect of each public works project. Views of relevant government departments may also be collected. After the ceremony, the village representative is required to submit to the Government an account of expenditure for the “Tun Fu” ceremony for verification.