

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)103**

**(Question Serial No. 0996)**

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:

In 2014 and 2015, 7 936 and 7 131 government sites were cleared from unlawful occupation respectively. What was the area of government sites involved in each of the two years? Were there any cases of repeated occupation? If yes, what was the area of land being repeatedly occupied? How much was spent on the clearance work respectively? What was the percentage of the amount spent that could be recovered by successful claims against the unlawful occupiers?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

In 2014 and 2015, the Lands Department (Lands D) took land control action against unlawful occupation on 7 936 and 7 131 government sites respectively. There is no readily available information on the area involved or the number of cases of repeated occupation.

Lands D is responsible for the general management and maintenance of unallocated government land. Apart from staff costs, the expenditure incurred in this area of work covers costs of fencing off the sites, erection of government notice boards, security guard services, site inspections and clearance of unlawful occupations. There is no separate breakdown in respect of the expenditure incurred specifically for the clearance work involved.

Among the government sites subject to Lands D's land control action in 2014 and 2015, most were cleared by the unlawful occupiers at their own costs before expiry of the relevant Government notices. For those cases with unlawful occupation persisting after expiry of Government's notices but with no occupiers identified, Lands D had, following established practice, made arrangements to clear the sites by term contractors. Recovery of clearance costs would be possible only when the unlawful occupiers could be identified and were eventually convicted in court. In 2014 and 2015, 25 cases were successfully prosecuted

with the persons involved convicted in court. The amount of clearance costs recovered was about \$0.23 million.

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