

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)108

(Question Serial No. 1783)

Head: (91) Lands Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Legal Advice
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms Bernadette LINN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Lands Department will continue to expedite the approval of legal title of former owners and preparation of compensation documents in respect of private land resumed under various infrastructure projects in 2016-17. Will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) of the average time and expenditure required for handling the task of approving legal titles of former owners and preparing compensation documents presently; and
- (2) whether any target, including the average time and expenditure required, has been set for expediting the task? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon James TIEN Pei-chun (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

- (1) The title checking and preparation of compensation documents in respect of resumption of private land by the Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office (LACO) of the Lands Department takes an average of about three months to process a case, at an average cost of about \$3,400.
- (2) To expedite the approval of legal title of former owners and preparation of compensation documents in respect of private land to be resumed for infrastructure projects, LACO will contract out some of the title checking and related work to private solicitor firms. We do not expect significant change to the average time to be taken to complete the work.

- End -