

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)337

(Question Serial No. 4278)

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:

The number of surveyed structures to be demolished on grounds of slope safety is estimated to be 50 in 2016, which represents an increase of 32 over the actual figure in 2014 and 34 in 2015. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 78)

Reply:

Surveyed structures are those recorded in the Squatter Control Survey conducted in 1982 and are tolerated on a temporary basis until they cease to exist or are required to be cleared for development, safety or environmental reasons.

The indicators included in the Controlling Officer's Report are the numbers of surveyed structures demolished by the Lands Department (Lands D) under non-development clearances on slope safety grounds. For such clearances, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will make clearance recommendations to Lands D in respect of those surveyed structures exposed to immediate and obvious danger due to landslides (i.e. Category 1 structures) and those especially vulnerable to landslides during periods of heavy rain due to their close proximity to potentially unstable slopes (i.e. Category 2 structures). Demolition of Category 1 structures is compulsory and will be backed up by forced eviction if necessary. Demolition of Category 2 structures is subject to the occupants voluntarily vacating the structures through advice and persuasion.

Eighteen and 16 surveyed structures were demolished under non-development clearances in 2014 and 2015 respectively. It is estimated that 50 surveyed structures will be cleared in 2016 but the actual number will depend on whether those occupants in Category 2 structures are willing to vacate them.

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