

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)374

(Question Serial No. 3597)

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:

What were the expenditure and manpower involved in inspections to identify any illegal excavation on private land leading to development in the past five years? How many cases of illegal excavation on private land leading to development were identified during routine inspections by the Lands Department in the past five years and what was their percentage share in the total number of cases of illegal excavation on private land leading to development? What will be the estimated expenditure and manpower required for this task in 2016-17?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 53)

Reply:

Given the large area of land in Hong Kong, it is impracticable for the Lands Department (Lands D) to inspect every piece of private land regularly for the purpose of identifying cases of unauthorised excavation. Lands D mainly acts on such cases upon receipt of complaints, referrals or enquiries. In the past five calendar years (2011 to 2015), Lands D did not receive any complaints, referrals or enquiries concerning unauthorised excavation on private land leading to development. As staff handling unauthorised excavation on private land (which is part of the lease enforcement work) also carry out other land administration duties, there are no separate breakdowns on the number of staff and staff cost solely for handling unauthorised excavation on private land.

- End -