

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 3600)

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:

Over the past five years, how many applications for rebuilding small houses or squatter structures has the Lands Department (Lands D) received respectively? What are the numbers of backlog cases and cases being processed? On average, how long does it take for Lands D to process an application for rebuilding small houses or squatter structures? What will be the estimated expenditure and manpower required for handling this task in 2016-17?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 56)

Reply:

Over the past five years (from 2011 to 2015), the number of applications received for rebuilding New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) including small houses was 3 708. As at end of February 2016, the number of rebuilding applications being processed was 2 036 and no application was pending processing.

For straightforward cases, the Lands Department (Lands D) takes around eight months to approve an application for rebuilding NTEHs. For complicated cases, the processing time would be longer if there are issues such as local objections, land title or boundary problems or requirements imposed by other regulatory authorities that would need to be resolved.

Rebuilding applications are processed by the existing staff of Lands D and as part of their overall duties. We are unable to provide a breakdown of the resources deployed solely for processing rebuilding applications.

As regards squatter structures in the New Territories, for the purpose of this reply, they include those structures covered by the Squatter Control Survey in 1982 and other licences such as Government Land Licences, Modification of Tenancy Permits, Short Term Tenancies or Short Term Waivers.

Over the past five years (from 2011 to 2015), the number of applications received for rebuilding squatter structures for domestic use was 161. As at end of February 2016, the number of rebuilding applications being processed was 48 and no application was pending processing. Processing of applications for rebuilding of squatter structures for domestic use within their existing dimensions is, in general, completed within 48 weeks.

Applications for rebuilding squatter structures for domestic use are processed by the existing staff of Lands D and as part of their overall duties. We are unable to provide a breakdown of the resources deployed solely for processing these applications.

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