

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****DEVB(PL)468****(Question Serial No. 7233)**

Head: (701) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Land Acquisition

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms Bernadette LINN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

1. How many claims for “Tun Fu” allowance were received by the Government in 2014-15 and 2015-16? Please provide a breakdown of the claims by name of village, allowance granted and specific use related to the allowance according to the dates on which they were granted; and
2. How did the Government verify whether the expenditure items were cost-effective, including whether the impact of public works projects on the fung shui of the indigenous villages could be alleviated? What specific actions and procedures were taken for verification? If there was no verification, how did the Government ensure that the allowances would be well spent and rewarding?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 289)

Reply:

*According to Rule 49 of the Finance Committee Procedures, special meetings of the Finance Committee are convened to examine the annual Estimates of Expenditure prepared by the Government in support of the Appropriation Bill.*

*Expenditure charged to the Capital Works Reserve Fund do **not** form part of the Appropriation Bill. As such, questions relating to expenditure under the Fund are **not** relevant to the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure or the Appropriation Bill.*

1. For the years 2014-15 and 2015-16, the Lands Department received a total of 17 claims for “Tun Fu” allowance. The number of claims received in each year is tabulated below:-

Year	Number of Claims Received
2014-15	14
2015-16 (up to end of February 2016)	3

As to the amount of allowance granted, the villages involved and the specific use related to the allowance, the details are shown below:-

Year	Amount Granted	Villages Involved	Specific Use
2014-15	\$1,728,792 (for 12 claims)	Islands district (3 villages) North district (6 villages) Sai Kung district (1 village) Sha Tin district (1 village) Tai Po district (3 villages)	“Tun Fu” ceremonies covering fung shui master’s fee, “Tun Fu” master’s fee, purchase of joss-papers and sticks, food offered in the ceremonies etc.
2015-16 (up to end of February 2016)	\$379,400 (for 17 claims)	North district (5 villages) Tai Po district (12 villages)	

Note: One claim may cover more than one village. Due to the lead time required for processing claims, the amount granted in one year may not correspond to claims received in the same year and often would cover some of the claims received in previous years.

2. The granting of “Tun Fu” allowance to pre-1898 indigenous villages affected by public works projects aims to facilitate the villagers’ performance of “Tun Fu” ceremonies to address their concerns related to fung shui, thereby facilitating timely completion of public projects. All claims must be fully justified and a list of itemised costs in respect of the “Tun Fu” ceremonies must be provided for consideration. In determining the amount of “Tun Fu” allowance, the reasonableness of the claim with reference to past similar claims, the proximity of public works to the villages or sites where fung shui is said to be affected, the relevant deity spots, village size and population will be taken into account. Each village may only submit one single claim in respect of each public works project. Views of relevant government departments may also be collected. After the ceremony, the village representative is required to submit to the Government an account of expenditure for the “Tun Fu” ceremony for verification.

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