

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)114****(Question Serial No. 0397)**

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:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, it is said that the Lands Department (Lands D) will continue to strengthen land control and lease enforcement work, including enforcement against unlawful occupation of government land. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) The manpower for handling the above tasks in the past three years;
- 2) How many working days did Lands D take to commence its enforcement procedures after reports of unlawful occupation of land had been received or after cases had been identified during inspections initiated by Lands D. What was the manpower involved?
- 3) Regarding the net increase of 38 posts under Programme (1) in this financial year, please list the details of the posts; among the staff members deployed to these posts, how many will be responsible for lease enforcement work?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

- 1) The manpower for handling land control and lease enforcement work in the Lands Department (Lands D) for the past three years is as follows:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
(a) number of full-time equivalent staff for handling land control work (including vegetation work on government land)	214	206	215
(b) number of full-time equivalent staff for handling lease enforcement work	94	107	107*

* In addition, 25 staff were employed on Post-Retirement Service Contract terms to handle lease enforcement work.

- 2) Unlawful occupation of government land takes different forms including, for instance, bicycles on public pavements/bicycle parks, skips on public carriageways, miscellaneous articles on back lanes, steps/ramps/shop front extensions on public pavements, encroachment by adjoining private lot owners and banners on roadside railings. Given the huge caseload and diversities involved, each District Lands Office has to take follow up action according to the different nature and priority of the cases and it is therefore difficult to give a precise indication of the time taken to commence action. As a general principle, Lands D will accord top priority to cases which pose a risk to public safety, by taking, upon detection, immediate land control action under Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28). Higher priority will also be accorded to cases involving unlawful occupation of larger areas of government land and cases causing serious nuisances.

- 3) In 2017-18, Lands D has earmarked provisions for the creation of 64 posts under Programme (1) which will be partly offset by the deletion of 26 time-limited posts. The net increase is therefore 38 posts. Lands D's current plan is to deploy six of these posts for lease enforcement work, and three of these posts for land control work.

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