

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)119**

**(Question Serial No. 1430)**

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:

Regarding matters on the management of government land, please inform this Committee of:

- (a) The staff establishment for conducting inspections at government land in the past three years (2014-15 to 2016-17).
- (b) The figures on unlawful occupation of government land identified by the Government in the past three years (2014-15 to 2016-17).
- (c) The respective figures on prosecution by the Government and successful conviction in the past three years (2014-15 to 2016-17), and the highest and lowest fine imposed respectively upon conviction.
- (d) The staff establishment for and expenditure on public education and publicity.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 64)

Reply:

- (a) Conducting inspections of government sites is part of the overall government land control work carried out by the Lands Department (Lands D). In the past three financial years (2014-15 to 2016-17), an average of 212 staff were involved in land control work (including vegetation work on government land), involving an average staff expenditure of \$86 million per year. There is no separate breakdown in respect of the expenditure for conducting inspections of government sites.
- (b) In the past three calendar years (2014 to 2016), there were 8 397, 8 915 and 12 011 cases respectively (including those referred by other government departments or identified by Lands D during inspections) having been confirmed to involve unlawful occupation of government land.

- (c) Under the applicable statutory enforcement regime, the authority may consider taking prosecution when the unlawful occupation has not ceased according to the statutory notices and when there is sufficient evidence identifying the responsible party. In the past three calendar years (2014 to 2016), 14, 14 and 34 prosecutions were instituted respectively in relation to unlawful occupation of government land in which, 11, 14 and 33 of them were convicted respectively and the fines range from \$200 to \$378,000.
- (d) There is no separate breakdown in respect of expenditure for land control related public education and publicity.

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