

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)141**

**(Question Serial No. 1012)**

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:

There are currently 642 recognised villages. On what criteria does the Government base any addition or deletion of recognised villages? Will the Government inform this Committee of the names of the five villages added or deleted recently and the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAW Kwun-chung, Nathan (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

The Lands Department (Lands D) considers and examines applications for inclusion in the List of Recognised Villages based on the following five criteria:

- (i) the village was in existence in 1898;
- (ii) the village name appeared on both the Demarcation District sheets produced between 1899 and 1904 and the Block Government Leases that came into effect in 1905;
- (iii) there are private lots within the village area on which erection of houses is allowed under the land lease;
- (iv) village houses had been granted on concessionary terms in the village before the implementation of the Small House Policy; and
- (v) there must be signs of continuous habitation by indigenous villagers within the village since 1945.

During the past five years (2012 to 2016), Lands D has not made any additions or deletions to the List of Recognised Villages.

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