

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)305

(Question Serial No. 6815)

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:

1. What were the time and resources spent by the Department on inspecting unleased government land in 2016? How many complaints about suspected cases of unlawful occupation of government land were received? How many cases of unlawful occupation of unleased government land were identified? What was the area of land involved?
2. How many cases of unlawful occupation led to prosecutions in 2016? How many were convicted? Has all the unlawfully occupied land been reinstated? If no, why not?
3. How many pieces of unlawfully occupied government land finally became lawful upon approval of the application submitted by the unlawful occupier to lease the land in 2016? How many such cases were there? What was the area of land involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 133)

Reply:

1. Conducting inspections of government sites is part of the overall government land control work carried out by the Lands Department (Lands D). The total staff cost involved in carrying out the government land control work (including vegetation work on government land) was \$92.29 million in 2016-17. There is no separate breakdown in respect of the expenditure for conducting inspections. In 2016, Lands D received 18 160 complaint cases concerning suspected unlawful occupation of government land. Taking into account also those cases referred by other government departments or identified by Lands D during inspections, 12 011 cases have so far been confirmed to involve unlawful occupation of government land. Lands D has no readily available information on the area of government land involved.

2. Where the occupants have not complied with Lands D's notices to cease the unlawful occupation and clear the land, Lands D will normally arrange for clearance. In 2016, 34 prosecutions were instituted in relation to unlawful occupation of government land in which, 33 of them were convicted.
3. In 2016, there were 62 cases of regularisation of unlawful occupation of government land through granting of short term tenancies involving an area of about 16 800 square metres.

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