

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0231)

Head: (91) Lands Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Land Administration
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Thomas CHAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the disposal of government properties, the Government estimated that 12 would be disposed of in 2018-19 while the actual number of properties disposed in that year was five. What are the reasons for the shortfall in property disposal? What are the improvement measures to address the shortfall? As for the eight government properties intended for disposal in 2019-20, please list their geographical distribution.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The Lands Department (LandsD) manages certain landed properties on behalf of the Government, including bona vacantia properties due to dissolution of a company under the Companies Ordinance, properties with leases already expired, properties vested in the Financial Secretary Incorporated or lots re-entered by the Government due to default of former owners, as well as buildings resumed or surrendered. If such properties are vacant, free from any encumbrances and considered appropriate for disposal, LandsD will consider disposing of them according to established procedures.

In 2018, 12 properties had been planned for disposal but seven of them were not sold because: (i) no tender bid had been received for two properties; (ii) the tender bids received for three properties did not meet the Government's reserve prices; and (iii) the title of two properties require further clarification. These properties will be arranged for tender again in due course where appropriate.

In 2019, LandsD plans to dispose of eight properties located in Sheung Wan, Mid-levels, Wan Chai and Kwai Chung. Among these eight properties, five of them were planned for disposal in 2018 but could not be sold.

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