

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)446****(Question Serial No. 5148)**Head: (701) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Land AcquisitionSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Lands (Thomas CHAN)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion:

- (a) How many claims for “Tun Fu” allowance were received by the Government in each of the past five years (2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19)? Please provide a breakdown of the claims by name of village, allowance granted and specific use of the allowance against the year of grant.

Year	Number of claims received for the year	Number of claims approved for the year
2014-15		
2015-16		
2016-17		
2017-18		
2018-19 (As at the end of February 2019)		

Year	Total amount granted	Number of villages involved	Name of village involved	Specific use
2014-15				
2015-16				
2016-17				
2017-18				
2018-19 (As at the end of February 2019)				

- (b) What are the criteria adopted by the Lands Department or respective District Lands Offices in approving claims for “Tun Fu” allowance submitted by villages? Are there any requirements from the Government that the services of fung shui masters, “Tun Fu” masters, etc. must be procured by tender to ensure proper use of public money?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 433)

Reply:

- (a) For the past five years, the Lands Department received a total of 27 claims for “Tun Fu” allowance. The number of claims received in each year is tabulated below:-

Year	Number of Claims Received	Number of Claims Approved
2014-15	16	12
2015-16	3	17
2016-17	3	5
2017-18	4	3
2018-19 (up to end February 2019)	1	0

Note: Due to the lead time required for processing claims, the number of claims approved in one year may not correspond to claims received in the same year and often would cover some of the claims received in previous years.

As to the amount of allowance granted, the villages involved and the specific use related to the allowance, the details are shown below:-

Year	Amount Granted	Number of the Villages Involved	Villages Involved	Specific Use
2014-15	\$1,728,792 (for 12 claims)	14	Islands district (3 villages) North district (6 villages) Sai Kung district (1 village) Sha Tin district (1 village) Tai Po district (3 villages)	“Tun Fu” ceremonies covering fung shui master’s fee, “Tun Fu” master’s fee, purchase of joss-papers and sticks, food offered in the ceremonies, etc.
2015-16	\$379,400 (for 17 claims)	17	North district (5 villages) Tai Po district (12 villages)	
2016-17	\$100,000 (for 5 claims)	5	Tuen Mun district (2 villages) Tai Po district (3 villages)	

Year	Amount Granted	Number of the Villages Involved	Villages Involved	Specific Use
2017-18	\$60,000 (for 3 claims)	3	Tai Po district (3 villages)	
2018-19 (up to end February 2019)	0	0	0	

Note: One claim may cover more than one village. Due to the lead time required for processing claims, the amount granted in one year may not correspond to claims received in the same year and often would cover some of the claims received in previous years.

- (b) Since the 1960s, the Government has been paying, based on claims lodged by the relevant village representatives, “Tun Fu” allowance to the affected indigenous villages prior to commencement of construction of public works that involved land acquisition and clearance in the New Territories. The allowance aims to maintain an amicable relation with the villagers for expediting works progress.

That notwithstanding, the overriding principles are that all “Tun Fu” allowance claims must be fully justified and a list of itemised costs in respect of “Tun Fu” ceremonies must be submitted for consideration. Typical itemised costs include fung shui master’s fee, “Tun Fu” master’s fee, purchase of joss-papers and sticks, food to be offered in the ceremony etc. In determining the final amount of “Tun Fu” payment, the reasonableness of the claim with reference to previous similar claims, the distance between the locations of the public works and the villages or sites which fung shui is alleged to be affected, village size and population will be taken into account. Relevant departments will also be consulted. Claims for “Tun Fu” allowance are processed by negotiation with the claimants based on their proposed itemised costs of expenditures for holding “Tun Fu” ceremonies and the reasonableness of the claims having regard to established criteria.

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