(Question Serial No. 2782)

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:

1) Please provide the respective numbers of suspected cases of selling “ding” rights illegally for building small houses in the New Territories noted by the Lands Department (LandsD), and those eventually referred to law enforcement departments for investigation in the past five years.

2) Please provide the respective numbers of squatter structures with unauthorised extensions/alterations noted by LandsD, those rectified after warning, and those with squatter survey numbers cancelled in the past five years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 3002)

Reply:

1) The Lands Department (LandsD) started collating statistics on complaints/referrals about suspected cases of selling the rights to apply for and build small houses by indigenous villagers (so called “To Ding”) in July 2014. From July 2014 to the end of 2019, LandsD received 1 757 such complaints/referrals. Amongst these cases, 270 cases have been referred to law enforcement agencies for investigation, of which 98 cases were found not substantiated based on information available, and the rest of the referred cases are being investigated by the law enforcement agencies. Moreover, LandsD received in end 2019 a number of complaints without providing specific details about suspected “To Ding”, and is now in the course of seeking clarification from complainants concerned before considering how these complaints should be handled and reflected in the statistics.
2) In the past five years (from 2015 to 2019), LandsD identified 2,823 surveyed squatter structures with unauthorised extensions/alterations. Amongst these cases, 504 surveyed squatter structures were rectified after warning, and 2,081 surveyed squatter structures had been deleted from survey records due to the serious nature of the breach or the failure to rectify despite repeated warnings. The remaining 238 surveyed squatter structures with unauthorised extensions/alterations are being followed up by LandsD.

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