(Question Serial No. 1856)

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. In 2019, 2 265 small house applications were processed, which has fallen short of the department’s target of 2 300 cases for each year. What are the reasons?

2. What are the resources and manpower to be deployed by the department in the coming year for processing these applications?

3. Has the department developed any performance indicators for processing small house applications, such as the time generally required for replying to applicants upon receipt of applications and the time required for processing?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

1. The number of small house cases processed from January to December 2019 was 2 265. This figure represented 98% of the original estimated figure. The number of cases processed each year may vary owing to factors such as the complexity of the applications, the response of the applicant to LandsD enquiries or requests for information, etc. The Lands Department (LandsD) will continue to expedite the processing of outstanding applications.

2. Around 100 staff of LandsD are involved in handling small house applications at present. Some of the staff involved are also responsible for other land administration duties. The same arrangement will largely continue in the 2020-21 financial year.
3. For straightforward small house applications, the processing may be completed within 24 weeks from the date of interview with the applicant. For other applications, depending on the nature and complexity of the issues involved, such as those associated with local objections, land title or boundary problems or requirements imposed by relevant regulatory authorities, the processing time may be longer. LandsD will continue to keep under review its work in processing small house applications.

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