(Question Serial No. 5444)

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:

Please provide the number of small houses in the territory and the estimated area of land occupied in the past five years.

Please list the respective numbers of applications for building small houses pending and under processing in the past five years.

Please set out the number of indigenous households and their household size, as well as the number of persons with small house rights in Hong Kong in the past five years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1355)

Reply:

(1) The number of small house grants approved and executed in the past five years (2015 to 2019) is 3,649. While we do not have readily available statistics on the number of small houses existing in the territory, the number of small house grants made since the introduction of the policy in 1972 is 44,130. The Lands Department (LandsD) has no readily available information on the total area of land involved for the small house grants.

(2) As at end of December 2019, the number of small house applications being processed was 6,419* and the number of applications pending processing was 2,456.

(3) LandsD has no information on the population of the New Territories indigenous community. LandsD also has not kept information on the number of indigenous villagers eligible for making small house applications in Hong Kong. As the intention to apply for and timing of application for building small houses depend on
individual circumstances of the villagers concerned, information on the population of the New Territories indigenous community or the number of eligible indigenous villagers may not necessarily be a reliable indicator of the demand for building small houses.

* The cases being processed as at end 2019 exclude applications for Private Treaty Grant and Land Exchange involving Government Land. The processing of these two types of applications has been suspended since the judgment of the Court of First Instance on the judicial review case on the small house policy took effect. Pending the results of the appeal, the suspension will continue.