

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)029

Head : 60 - Highways Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1548

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The indicator in Programme (1) shows that the estimated number of works contracts planned to commence in 2006 is ten, which is 50% lower than the actual number of works contracts that commenced in 2004. Would the Government account for the substantial decrease in the number of works contracts that commenced in these two years?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The number of works contracts commenced in a particular year depends on various factors including but not limited to the number of highway projects under planning and construction, their respective stages of implementation, etc.

With the commencement of works for many mega-scale highway projects, such as Route 8, Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and Deep Bay Link, in recent years, the number of commenced works contracts peaked in 2003 and 2004. Since the construction works in respect of the projects are in full swing in 2005 and 2006, it is reasonable that the number of commenced contracts in these two years shows a decline.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 11 March 2006