

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

ETWB(T)032

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

2309

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Please advise on the following -

- (a) In respect of the maintenance of public roads in Programme (2), please set out the locations, construction costs, removal costs and utilisation periods of the temporary bridges constructed / to be constructed and removed / to be removed in 2005-06 and 2006-07.
- (b) In respect of Programme (2), please provide the breakdown by numbers, and costs of the damaged and stolen road furniture in 2005-06.
- (c) In respect of the expenditure under Subhead 272 Electricity for public lighting, please account for the drastic increase from \$162,579,000 in 2004-05 to \$175,721,000 in the revised estimate for 2005-06 and the subsequent decrease to \$170,733,000 in the estimate for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : (a) There was no construction or removal of temporary bridges in 2005-06 and there is no scheduled construction or removal of temporary bridges in 2006-07.

- (b) A breakdown of street furniture damaged and stolen in 2005-06 is as follows -

Category of street furniture	Damaged ⁱ		Stolen ⁱⁱ	
	Quantity	Cost (\$)	Quantity	Cost (\$)
Traffic sign	444 nos.	206,740	51 nos.	24,550
Gully grating	Nil	N.A.	433 nos.	12,400
U-channel grating	Nil	N.A.	884 nos.	67,600
Railing/fencing	9 449 metres	2,116,000	Nil	N.A.
Total cost	-	2,322,740	-	104,550

Notes:

- (i) The cost of the damaged street furniture would be recovered from the owners of vehicles involved in the traffic accident.
- (ii) There are provisions in some of the term contracts that the contractors have to bear the cost for replacing the stolen furniture. Therefore, the loss to Government is less than that indicated.

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- (c) The increase in expenditure on electricity in 2005-06 is due to the full year effect of the public lighting and traffic signals at Wu Kai Sha and Tai Wai Stations of the East Rail Ma On Shan to Tai Wai Rail Link commissioned in 2004 and the additional electricity requirement of new facilities such as the Penny's Bay Development Area commissioned in 2005.

With Highways Department's efforts in energy saving, which include the use of bulk tariff payment at a more favourable rate negotiated with electricity companies for PTIs with high energy consumption, it is expected that the energy cost in 2006-07 will be trimmed down.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 13 March 2006