

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

THB(T)054

Question Serial No.

0247

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It came to my notice that vehicles running on expressways might throw up loose gravel, thereby breaking windscreens of other vehicles. And the problem is getting more and more serious. Does the Highways Department have any measures to improve the situation in 2010-11? What are the resources involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

According to our record, we received 20 and 18 complaints about small objects hitting windscreens of vehicles travelling on high speed roads in Hong Kong in 2008 and 2009 respectively. Loosened stone aggregates from road pavements and materials deposited by vehicles using the roads are the two most common types of "flying objects" on the road.

The roads are inspected on a daily basis and are swept by mechanical road sweeper once everyday to clear the small objects. Repair works would be carried out once any defect on the road pavement is identified during the inspection. Bituminous surfaces are also resurfaced from time to time in about three to five years' interval.

In deciding the frequency of road inspection, road sweeping and resurfacing, we strike a balance between maintaining a reasonable level of cleanliness, the resources required and the disruptions caused to road users during the maintenance operations. For road sections with more frequent complaints, we will consider stepping up the road sweeping work.

The costs for repair of road damage, road sweeping and resurfacing of high speed roads in 2009 were around \$10.3 million, \$2.5 million and \$98.4 million respectively. In 2010, the level of maintenance would be maintained at a similar level but road sweeping work may be increased slightly if required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2010