

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

Reply Serial No.

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

THB(T)058

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

0651

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department has mentioned that it will maintain the cost of capital projects within the approved project estimate. This target was achieved in 2008 and 2009. Please set out the basis and concrete measures for delivering the above promise in 2010.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

In the delivery of capital works projects, maintaining the project expenditure within the approved project estimate has been one of our prime objectives. To achieve this objective, the government has formulated guidelines requiring project engineers to compile/review project estimates at every stage of a project, taking into account all possible factors and risks that may affect the project costs. We have also set up a committee to vet the estimate of individual project to ensure that it is genuine and adequate, prior to seeking funds from the Finance Committee. During the construction stage, each project is closely monitored by the project team with a view to delivering the project on time and within budget. Our performance in achieving the said objective has been satisfactory in 2008 and 2009 and we are confident that the target of 100% set for 2010 is achievable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 15.3.2010