

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

THB(T)047

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0012

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Will the Administration inform this Committee of the figures regarding urgent road repair/resurfacing in the past two years (i.e. 2009-10 to 2010-11)? What gave rise to the aforesaid urgent cases? Were there any cases of road damage caused by works in progress? If yes, did the Highways Department (HyD) recover compensation from the contractors of the works, and what was the amount of compensation recovered in the past two years? What are the measures currently being taken by HyD to prevent potential serious impacts of any works on road conditions?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

There were 1 965 and 1 728 cases of emergency road repairs or resurfacing of vehicular roads in 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively, arising from the aging of road pavement, damage due to traffic accidents, and severe weather conditions causing road subsidence or damage of pavement/ drainage facilities. There is no proven case that any of these emergency repairs are related to on-going construction works.

The Highways Department (HyD) has put in place measures to prevent and identify damage to road pavement and associated facilities by roadwork contractors. We issue road excavation permits to control construction works affecting public roads. We incorporate permit conditions to require the permittees to take appropriate measures to prevent road damage. We carry out regular audit inspections to ensure that conditions as stipulated in the permits are observed. In addition, for projects carried out by HyD's contractors, we deploy resident site staff to carry out routine inspections and regular reviews, and also closely supervise the works. In the event that road damage is identified, we would require the permittee or contractor (as the case may be) to carry out necessary repair in conjunction with the works concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 15.3.2011