## Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

## CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)053

Question Serial No.

0129

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

(4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer:

Director of Highways

**Director of Bureau:** 

Secretary for Transport and Housing

## Question:

Whilst the "expenditure on maintenance of road lights" in 2010-11 is \$58.2 million, the estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is \$71 million. Please advise this Committee of the following:

- a. Why is there a 20% increase in the estimated expenditure?
- b. What is the estimated percentage of lighting facilities that need to be replaced in the total number of lighting facilities?
- c. Will these lighting facilities be replaced with energy saving ones during maintenance? If not, please give the reasons. If yes, what is the cost difference between using energy saving and non-energy saving lighting facilities?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

## Reply:

- a. The increase in estimated expenditure on maintenance of road lighting facilities is due to the increase in material costs. The costs of copper and steel, which are the crucial materials used in the road lighting facilities, have increased by about 16% and 23% respectively from November 2009 to November 2010.
- b. The replacement of lamps in the road lighting system is dependent on their life expectancy, which is normally about two to three years. Hence, about one third of them is replaced annually. Other road lighting facilities (for example lighting column, lanterns, traffic bollards) are replaced on need basis (arising from damages arising from traffic accidents, road works, etc.).
- c. The lamps and lanterns used in the existing public lighting system are already at the top end of similar products currently available in the market in terms of energy saving efficiency. We will closely monitor the development of new energy saving lighting facilities and explore their applications in Hong Kong.

Signature	
Name in block letters	K K LAU
Post Title	Director of Highways
Date	15.3.2011