## Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

## CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)230** 

Question Serial No.

1390

<u>Head</u>: Capital Works Reserve Fund

Head 706 - Highways

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Transport and Housing

## Question:

Regarding the latest estimates by the Administration about approved projects under Head 706, please provide a breakdown of the following information:

Subhead (No. & title):

- a. projects which will be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion date as stated in the respective Public Works Subcommittee paper;
- b. projects which will be completed at a lower cost than the approved amount; and
- c. projects which will be completed at a higher cost than the approved amount.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him Abraham

## Reply:

On present projection, 11 on-going projects in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 706 will be completed by the scheduled completion dates as stated in the respective Finance Committee (FC) papers. There may be unforeseeable risks such as inclement weather, ground conditions, site constraints, etc. which may affect project progress. Occasionally, where site conditions and weather conditions, etc. are more favourable than expected, projects may be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion dates. On the other hand, we will continue to make our best efforts to ensure the timely completion of the projects. As circumstances may change during the construction stage, we will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these on-going projects will be completed earlier than the scheduled completion date upon project completion.

For those approved projects listed in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 706 and which are still on-going, all of them are within the latest Approved Project Estimates (APE) approved by FC on present projection. Prior approval of FC must be sought under the established mechanism, if any of the projects is anticipated to exceed the APE. While some returned tenders of the projects are lower than the sum allowed in the APE, we need to cater for unforeseeable risks relating to ground conditions, site constraints, etc, which may materialise in the construction process. We will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these approved projects is completed at a lower cost than the APE upon project completion.

Signature	
Name in block letters	K K LAU
Post Title	Director of Highways
Date	17.3.2011