

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)024

Question Serial No.

2322

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

272 - Electricity
for public lighting

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

According to the estimates of the budget this year, the expenditure on public lighting increases by about \$10 million when compared to last year. Will the Highways Department (HyD) inform this Committee :

- (a) Why is there an increase in expenditure on public lighting as compared to last year?
- (b) Has the HyD considered reducing the demand for electricity for public lighting to achieve energy-saving? If so, what is the estimated reduction in expenditure this year for the aforesaid reduction?
- (c) Will the HyD consider replacing public lighting with light emitting diode (LED) to reduce the demand for electricity? If so, what is the expenditure involved this year for the aforesaid replacement?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

- (a) The increase in the estimated expenditure on public lighting in 2013-14 is mainly to cater for the anticipated increases in electricity tariffs.
- (b) It has been the target of the HyD to optimise the use of electricity in public lighting. The majority of the lamps being used, in particular those of the high-power range, are already amongst the most cost-effective and energy efficient in the market. The remaining small amount of old lamps will be replaced by high energy efficient ones. Dimmable electronic ballasts will also be installed to fine tune the illumination of some road lights. The estimated energy cost to be saved in 2012-13 is about \$0.53 million. The HyD will continue to look for opportunities for further energy saving.

- (c) High-power LED road lights are still not available in the market. The HyD has implemented a trial to assess the performance and cost-effectiveness of other types of LED road lights in Kowloon and New Territories East. The trial will be extended to Hong Kong Island and New Territories West in 2013-14 at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. We will monitor and review the trial results by early 2014 to determine the extent of utilisation of LED road lights in future.

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| Name in block letters: | K K LAU |
| Post Title: | Director of Highways |
| Date: | 3.4.2013 |