

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)044****(Question Serial No. 0139)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: - (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question (Member Question No. 13):

- (1) - The Transport Department stated that it will “continue to consult stakeholders on the public transport service re-organisation proposals to tie in with the opening of the South Island Line (East) (SIL(E))” in 2014-15. In the Legislative Council paper, it was also stated that “the headway of SIL(E) services would be similar to other existing MTR lines with a peak hour headway of around 3 minutes. In addition, SIL(E) would be operated with a 3-car configuration, with a capacity of about 20 000 passengers per hour (in each direction)”. However, on the basis that the passenger capacity per train of the SIL(E) is about 750, the capacity should only be $750 \times 20 = 15\,000$. Why is there such a discrepancy? Will the railway line be overloaded rapidly? During consultation, have the stakeholders been told the discrepancy?
- (2) - What is the estimated number of passengers attracted by the new line to use railway per day? What is the method of estimation?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

- (1) - The SIL(E) will operate with a 3-car train configuration. The capacity of each SIL(E) train is about $226 \times 3 = 678$ passengers when the service level of the SIL(E) is pitched at a service benchmark of 4 passengers per square metre. Upon commissioning, the SIL(E) will initially operate with an approximately 3-minute headway to meet passenger demand. When the patronage level of the SIL(E) is built up, it can be operated at a higher frequency of 29 trains per hour per direction, which gives a capacity of about 20 000 ($678 \times 29 = 19\,662$) passengers per hour per direction.
- (2) - It is anticipated that about 170 000 passengers will use the SIL(E) per day in 2016. The patronage forecast was derived by transport modelling, taking into account the planning forecast of population and employment in 2016.