

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)042

(Question Serial No. 1202)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (4) Technical Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question (Member Question No. 17):

As regards researching into new materials, techniques and standards to be applied to works, what is the related staffing establishment in the department? What is the expenditure involved? What were the results achieved last year?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

There are eight professional staff responsible for studies of new materials, techniques and standards of construction amid their other duties. The expenditure on the studies in 2013-14 is around \$4.8 million. The studies include research in the following areas:

- (a) selection of crash cushions;
- (b) use of recycled sub-base;
- (c) the feasibility of using glassphalt;
- (d) development of new tests to improve quality control of asphalt;
- (e) use of reclaimed asphalt pavements;
- (f) updating of design standards for carriageway pavement;
- (g) use of synthetic manhole covers;
- (h) in-service performance of thermoplastic road markings; and
- (i) review of pavement rehabilitation practice and roadside drainage interception efficiency.

As a result of these studies, ten technical reports and two guidance notes leading to improved standards and work practices were newly issued or updated.