

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)254****(Question Serial No. 5310)**

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 67)

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-2015 of this Programme, the Administration states that it will continue to improve the safety and appearance of roadside slopes. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on:

- (1) How to determine whether maintenance is required for the road sections concerned?
- (2) What are the procedures involved in slope maintenance?
- (3) Which government departments are likely to be involved in slope maintenance?
- (4) How many slopes are likely to require maintenance or improvement works to the appearance in the Administration's estimation?
- (5) What are the operating expenses, staff establishment and estimated salary expenditure for the afore-mentioned matter in the 2014-2015 estimates?
- (6) What are the locations of roadside slopes where improvement works to their safety and appearance will be carried out in 2014-2015?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The Highways Department (HyD) has employed eight contractors for maintenance of all public roads including maintenance of roadside slopes which are under the responsibility of the department. The routine maintenance works for slopes include clearance of debris from channels and slope surface, unblocking of weep holes and outlet drainpipes, repairing damaged surface cover, repairing erosion control mats and maintenance of landscape treatment on slopes. HyD also carries out Engineer Inspections (EIs) with reference to the guidelines published by the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department. Based on findings of the EIs, further maintenance works will be arranged, if necessary. The number and location of slopes requiring further maintenance works depends on the outcome of EIs carried out from time to time. The estimated cost of maintenance/improvement works on roadside slopes in 2014-15 is about \$90 million. HyD deploys existing staff to oversee the slope maintenance and improvement works. There is no separate breakdown on staff establishment and expenditure on salary solely dedicated for the purpose.