

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(W)255**

**(Question Serial No. 5312)**

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. 69)

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-2015 of this Programme, the Administration states that it will continue to monitor and enhance the performance of the Excavation Permit Management System. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee:

- (1) What are the inadequacies of the existing Excavation Permit Management System?
- (2) In the past ten years, how many excavation permits were issued by the Administration each year?
- (3) What are the operating expenses, staff establishment and estimated salary expenditure for the afore-mentioned matter in the 2014-2015 estimates?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

In August 2009, the Highways Department (HyD) launched a computer system namely the Excavation Permit Management System (XPMS), which took advantage of the latest information technology at that time to improve the efficiency. The XPMS enhanced the capacity of electronic information management, promoted electronic submissions and streamlined the processes in relation to Excavation Permit (XP) applications, control and monitoring. Even though the XPMS is operating satisfactorily, HyD continuously looks for improvement to the system.

- (1) Following the advancement of information technology, HyD considers that the performance and reliability of the XPMS can be further enhanced by migration of the Geographic Information System engine to a more updated version.

Moreover, as a business facilitating initiative, HyD is also preparing to implement an e-payment service in the XPMS for settlement of certain types of XP fees.

- (2) The numbers of XPs issued in the past ten years are tabulated below:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of XPs issued	42 741	39 949	35 979	29 544	29 615	31 434	30 485	25 776	24 812	24 374

- (3) The estimated operational cost of the XPMS in 2014-2015 is \$10.3 million. The establishment for overseeing the daily support and maintenance of the XPMS includes three professional and technical staff.