

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)234****(Question Serial No. 5315)**

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 Transport and Housing

Question (Member Question No. 72):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 of this Programme, the Administration stated that it will continue to use low-noise thermal heating method for minor repair of pavement. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on:

- (1) What are the locations of road sections where low-noise thermal heating method will be used for pavement repair works in 2014-15?
- (2) Over the past three years, how many complaints about noise generated by pavement repair works using low-noise thermal heating method were received each year?
- (3) What are the operating expenses, staff establishment and estimated salary expenditure for the afore-mentioned matter in the 2014-15 estimates?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) In 2014-15, low-noise thermal heating method will continue to be used for localised pothole repair works, and for road resurfacing works where there are physical, traffic and/or environmental constraints which render conventional cold milling and resurfacing method not practicable. The location of works will depend on the findings from regular inspections.
- (2) Over the past three years, the Highways Department (HyD) has received nine complaint cases on noise generated by pavement repair works using low-noise thermal heating method, with breakdown for each year as follows:

Year	No. of complaint cases
2011	0
2012	2
2013	7

- (3) The low-noise thermal heating method is one of the ways adopted by the HyD's road maintenance contractors for carrying out road repairs. There is no direct operating expense for the HyD. The HyD deploys existing staff in supervising the term maintenance contracts. There is no separate breakdown on operating expenses, staff establishment and expenditure on salary solely dedicated for the purpose.