

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)236****(Question Serial No. 5320)**

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. 78)

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 of this Programme, the Administration stated that it will oversee the progress of the West Island Line (WIL), the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL), the South Island Line (East) [SIL(E)], the Kwun Tong Line Extension (KTE) and the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) to ensure their timely completion. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) What are the current progress and anticipated time of completion for the afore-mentioned projects?
- (2) Whether the expenditure of these projects have exceeded the original estimates? If so, what are the details?
- (3) What measures does the Administration have to ensure the timely completion of these projects?
- (4) What measures does the Administration have to keep the impacts of these projects on the community to a minimum?
- (5) 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) Up to the end of 2013, the progress and anticipated completion date of the construction of the five railway projects are tabulated below:

Project	Progress of construction works (% completed)	Anticipated completion date
WIL	85	2014
XRL	65	2015
SIL(E)	60	2015
KTE	55	2015
SCL	12	Tai Wai to Hung Hom section: 2018 Hung Hom to Admiralty section: 2020

- (2) Based on the current situation, the original estimates for the five railway projects should not be exceeded.
- (3) and (4) The Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the five railway projects by the MTR Corporation Limited. The HyD has been closely monitoring the progress, financial situation, quality and other aspects of works with the assistance of consultants on some specialised tasks to ensure that the five railway projects are implemented smoothly with minimum nuisance to the public.
- (5) The HyD deploys in-house staff with the assistance of consultants on some specialised tasks to monitor the implementation of the railway projects. The total estimated consultancy fee to be spent in 2014-15 is \$41.4 million.