

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)237

(Question Serial No. 5321)

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. 79):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 of this Programme, the Administration stated that it will liaise with the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) for the commissioning of the West Island Line (WIL). In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) What is the liaison mechanism between the Administration and the MTRCL?
- (2) How can the Administration ensure the effectiveness of the liaison mechanism?
- (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:

The MTRCL is required to construct the WIL in accordance with the relevant laws, rules and regulations. The Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) has policy responsibility for overseeing the implementation and ensuring the smooth commissioning of the WIL. The Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for the day-to-day monitoring and coordination of project activities in conjunction with the MTRCL and other government departments to ensure that the project will be completed on time and within budget. A Steering Committee on Commissioning of the WIL chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) has been set up to monitor and coordinate relevant matters, including safety and security aspects, service readiness of the railway project and public relations issues, to ensure smooth commissioning of the WIL in December 2014. The THB and the HyD deploy in-house resources in carrying out the afore-mentioned duties. There is no separate breakdown on operating expenses, staff establishment and expenditure on salary solely dedicated for the purpose.