

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)239**

**(Question Serial No. 5323)**

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. 81):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 of this Programme, the Administration stated that it will continue to undertake route protection of the recommended railway projects and other longer term proposals. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) Does the Administration have any means to ensure that the interests of New Territories West residents are fully protected in the future railway projects, and that the ratio of railway stations to population for the area is on par with those in Hong Kong and Kowloon? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (2) 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) The Government has commissioned a consultant to conduct a study for the Review and Update of the Railway Development Strategy 2000 (the Study), with a view to updating the long-term railway development blueprint for Hong Kong to cater for the latest development needs of the society. The Government is finalising the blueprint for railway development beyond 2020 having regard to transport demand, cost-effectiveness and development needs of New Development Areas. The Government will announce the way forward for the new railway proposals as soon as possible.
- (2) The estimated expenditure for the Study in 2014-15 is \$2.233 million. The Highways Department has deployed in-house resources to oversee the consultancy study and to facilitate the formulation of the new railway development blueprint. There is no separate breakdown on staff establishment and expenditure on salary solely dedicated for the study.