

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)240**

**(Question Serial No. 5324)**

Head: (60) Highways Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (4) Technical Services  
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question (Member Question No. 82):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 of this Programme, the Administration stated that it will continue to enhance its quality management system with special emphases on environment and safety management. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on:

- (1) What are the inadequacies of the current quality management system?
- (2) What are the operating expenses, staff establishment and estimated salary expenditure for the aforesaid matter in the 2014-15 estimates?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) The Highways Department (HyD) implements a Quality Management System (QMS) and an Environmental Management System (EMS) in accordance with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 14001:2004 management standards respectively. The management systems cover the safety management aspect which is also an area of prime concern to the HyD. With a view to maintaining and enhancing the management systems, the HyD carries out internal audit and engages an independent certification body for external audit every year. The audit results indicated that the overall performance of HyD's management systems is satisfactory. Nevertheless, the HyD has been looking for continuous improvement to the management systems in accordance with the requirements of the management standards.
- (2) The HyD deploys two professional staff to run the QMS and the EMS. The estimated expenditure in 2014-15 for carrying out the external audits and certification is about \$130,000.