

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)256

(Question Serial No. 5326)

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 Development

Question (Member Question No. 84):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-2015 of this Programme, the Administration states that it will continue to maintain the technical standard of Engineer Inspection of slopes through audit. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee:

- (1) What are the details of "internal audit"?
- (2) Has any reference been made to other countries' standards regarding the technical standard of Engineer Inspection of slopes? If so, to which countries' standards?
- (3) What are the operating expenses, staff establishment and estimated salary expenditure for the aforesaid matter in the 2014-2015 estimates?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) The Highways Department employs consultants to conduct the Engineer Inspection (EI) of roadside slopes. The internal audit on the EI involves in-house geotechnical engineers auditing the EI reports submitted by the consultants in the aspects of adequacy of slope information collected and reviewed, accuracy of assessment of changes in the conditions of the slope and surrounding areas and appropriateness of the recommendations on follow-up actions.
- (2) The technical standard of the EI is based on the Geoguide 5 published by the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department.
- (3) Auditing of EI is carried out by four professionals amongst their other duties. We do not have separate estimates on the associated operating expenses and salary expenditure in 2014-2015.