

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)029**

**(Question Serial No. 0166)**

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:

In this Programme, the Government stated that it will continue to monitor the works progress of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) in 2015-16. As understood, Railway Development Division 2-3 of the Railway Development Office (RDO), Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for the above task. Will the Government inform this Committee of the main duties, operating expenses, staff establishment and full year estimated salary expenditure of the Railway Development Division 2-3 of the RDO, HyD, the Division dedicated to the XRL project, in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wai-yip, Albert (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

The Railway Development Division 2-3 (the Division), headed by Chief Engineer/Railway Development 2-3 (CE/RD2-3), is responsible for the planning and implementation of the XRL project, including the associated Essential Public Infrastructure Works (EPIW). The major duties and responsibilities of the Division include -

- (a) monitoring the planning, design and implementation and commissioning of the XRL entrusted to the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL);
- (b) administering the Public Works Programme items relating to the XRL, including the associated EPIW, e.g. passenger linkage to the West Kowloon Terminus;
- (c) administering the entrustment agreement for the construction of the XRL with the MTRCL, and resolving claims and disputes arising from the XRL;
- (d) monitoring the MTRCL through the monitoring and verification (M&V) consultant to ensure the proper adoption of appropriate strategy, procedures and programmes on the engineering and financial aspects of the XRL;
- (e) preparing the statutory process in the gazettal of the schemes under relevant ordinances;
- (f) co-ordinating with other government bureaux/departments and resolving interfacing matters related to the XRL; and

- (g) monitoring and reviewing the assessment of claims by the MTRCL for the XRL construction contracts.

The HyD deploys in-house staff resources with the assistance of its M&V consultant to monitor the implementation of the XRL project. As at March 2015, there are one Chief Engineer (CE/RD2-3), five Senior Engineers, eight Engineers and one Assistant Engineer in the Division, with a total estimated staff cost of \$14 million. The Division also has a number of supporting staff, but they provide support to other divisions in the RDO and not just Division 2-3.

- End -