

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)031

(Question Serial No. 0168)

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:

As understood, the Railway Development Office (RDO) of the Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for the work under this Programme. Will the Government inform this Committee of the main duties, operating expenses, staff establishment and full year estimated salary expenditure of the RDO in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wai-yip, Albert (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

In 2015-16, the major duties of the RDO are -

- (a) to co-ordinate actions with bodies and departments concerned to speed up land resumption and to resolve interface problems to facilitate implementation of the railway projects;
- (b) to oversee the progress of the West Island Line, the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the South Island Line (East), the Kwun Tong Line Extension and the Shatin to Central Link to ensure their timely completion;
- (c) to take forward the proposed railway schemes recommended under the Railway Development Strategy 2014;
- (d) to scrutinise submissions including project estimates by the MTR Corporation Limited on the implementation of railway projects;
- (e) to co-ordinate with the Mainland authorities on cross-boundary infrastructure developments; and
- (f) to continue to undertake route protection of the recommended railway projects and other longer term proposals.

The HyD deploys in-house staff resources (with a staff establishment of 131 as at 31 March 2016), with the assistance of consultants on some specialised tasks, to monitor the implementation of the railway projects. The operating expenses, including staff salaries, of the RDO in 2015-16 will be about \$112.6 million.

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