

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)039

(Question Serial No. 0765)

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:

Regarding the Department's work in undertaking the responsibility "for the implementation of highway projects in the Public Works Programme", "monitoring and co-ordinating various activities associated with the implementation of new railway projects" and "formulating plans for further development of the railway network", please provide the following information on the manpower and construction safety for the railway and highway projects under construction:

- (1) The figures relating to workers, imported workers and construction safety in the past three years for the railway and highway projects under construction:
 - (i) number of industrial accidents up to now
 - (ii) breakdown of accidents by type
 - (iii) number of compensation claims and amount of claim
 - (iv) number of professional/technical staff and workers by categories of local and non-local manpower
 - (v) shortfall of professional/technical staff and workers
- (2) What were the numbers of site inspections and of violations of safety codes found during inspection by the Department in the past three years?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

- (1) (i) & (ii) The information on industrial accidents for the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL), the West Island Line (WIL), the South Island Line (East) (SIL(E)), the Kwun Tong Line Extension (KTE) and the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) projects for the past three financial years provided by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) is tabulated below.

2012-13 to 2014-15 (up to end Dec 2014) Railway project	Total number of industrial accidents	Category of accidents			
		Injured by tools, plants and objects	Injured whilst carrying, lifting and working	Fell from height & slippage	Others
XRL	395	203	90	98	4
WIL	125	31	42	36	16
SIL(E)	189	53	63	47	26
KTE	44	22	9	12	1
SCL	114	48	16	35	15

- (iii) Compensation arising from the accidents in the above projects is paid by the contractors of the MTRCL to the affected workers and families direct. The information requested is not readily available.
- (iv) & (v) The construction staff for the above projects are either employed by the MTRCL or its contractors. The average daily number of workers employed in each project and the shortfall comparing with the planned numbers in the past three calendar years are shown in the table below. However, the breakdown on local and non-local workers is not readily available.

Railway project	Average daily number of workers employed			Shortfall in number of workers employed as comparing with the planned number		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
XRL	3 592	5 013	5 268	538	1 869	1 869
WIL	1 192	1 781	1 559	564	310	0 ^(a)
SIL(E)	1 186	1 986	2 451	329	193	0 ^(a)
KTE	400	619	1 109	121	297	394
SCL	613	1 997	3 537	74	675	1 307

Note (a): Owing to the programme delay in the WIL and the SIL(E), contractors hired more workers than the planned numbers to expedite the civil engineering construction works in 2014.

- (2) The MTRCL is required to oversee the construction works carried out by its contractors in accordance with the relevant laws, rules and project guidelines. The MTRCL has set up a safety supervision team for each of the railway projects to closely monitor the implementation of the site safety measures, including carrying out site inspections and checking compliance with the safety requirements. The Highways Department carried out site inspections for the purpose of monitoring the works of the MTRCL.

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