

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)214

(Question Serial No. 1142)

Head: (706) Capital Works Reserve Fund - Highways

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding Subhead 6845TH "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong boundary crossing facilities - reclamation and superstructures" under Infrastructure (Transport-Roads) of Head (706) Capital Works Reserve Fund, Contract No. HY/2010/02 awarded by the Highways Department (HyD) in 2011 at a total contract price of HK\$6.99 billion involves the construction of an artificial island of about 150 hectares. In this connection, will the Government provide information about: the total expenditure on the procurement of the sand and rock used for reclamation and the total volume of these materials, including that of the estimate in 2011 when the contract was awarded and in the latest estimate; the origin of the sand and rock, and information of its supplier; and the specifications and procedures adopted by the Government or the contractor in the procurement.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (Member Question No. 39)

Reply:

According to Rule 49 of the Finance Committee Procedures, special meetings of the Finance Committee are convened to examine the annual Estimates of Expenditure prepared by the Government in support of the Appropriation Bill.

Expenditure charged to the Capital Works Reserve Fund do **not** form part of the Appropriation Bill. As such, questions relating to expenditure under the Fund are **not** relevant to the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure or the Appropriation Bill.

Construction materials including sand and rock used for reclamation under 6845TH "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong boundary crossing facilities - reclamation and superstructures" are directly procured by the contractor under the terms of the relevant contract. The HyD pays the contractor on the completed works under the usual contract procedures, and does not have information on the purchase prices of individual construction materials. The contractor procured sand and rock mainly from Mainland sources. They have to comply with the standard specifications for these materials to be used in reclamation works for the project.

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