CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2012)

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:

Last year, delay to a number of projects undertaken by the MTR Corporation Limited was announced.   In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

(a)   What was the staffing and expenditure involved in monitoring the progress of various railway projects in the past three years?

(b)   Given the announcement made about the delayed commissioning of the above projects last year, in the coming three years, will the Government allocate more staff and expenditure to make monitoring of the projects more accurate?   If yes, what are the details?   If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

(a)   The Highways Department (HyD) deploys in-house staff resources (with the staff strength of 104 as at end March 2015 in the Railway Development Office) to monitor the progress, financial situation, quality and other aspects of works of the railway projects under construction.   In addition, consultants have been employed to assist the HyD to carry out the monitoring and verification work of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) project and the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project.   The total consultancy fees spent for the XRL and the SCL in the past three years (from 2012 to 2014) are $49.8 million and $58.3 million respectively.

(b)   Starting from 2015-16, the HyD will deploy three additional professional staff (one Senior Engineer and two Engineers/Assistant Engineers) to the team looking after the XRL project; and two additional professional staff (one Senior Engineer and one Engineer/Assistant Engineer) to the team looking after the SCL project, in order to enhance monitoring of the two projects.

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