

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)424

(Question Serial No. 4057)

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:

When will the Government implement the MTR South Island Line (West) [SIL(W)] project, linking Wong Chuk Hang Station and Hong Kong University Station with intermediate stations at Aberdeen, Wah Fu, Cyberport and Queen Mary Hospital? Will any consideration be given to the suggestion by the residents of Residence Bel-Air of constructing the Cyberport Station underground? If no, what are the reasons? What will be the cost as estimated by the Government?

Asked by: Hon SIN Chung-kai (Member Question No. 33)

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.

The Transport and Housing Bureau announced the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014) on 17 September 2014, recommending that seven new railway projects be completed in the planning horizon up to 2031. The South Island Line (West) (SIL(W)) is one of the recommended railway projects. For planning purpose, it is preliminarily proposed in the RDS-2014 to implement the SIL(W) from 2021 to 2026, subject to the actual programme for the development and redevelopment of public housing in the Wah Fu area as well as the build-up of transport demand.

The implementation of the SIL(W), as with other projects recommended in the RDS-2014, is subject to the outcome of detailed engineering, environmental and financial studies, as well as updated assessment of passenger transport demand and availability of resources.

Prior to the finalisation of the new railway scheme, we will consult the public on the detailed alignment and the location of the stations, among others.

As shown in the RDS-2014, the preliminary cost estimate for the SIL(W) is in the order of \$25 billion (in 2013 prices). This figure is only indicative and is subject to review based on in-depth studies to be carried out at the detailed planning stage.

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