

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)256

(Question Serial No. 4066)

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 progress of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) and the Kwun Tong Line Extension (KTE), please inform this Committee on:

- (1) Can the two projects be completed according to the schedules? Please provide the anticipated dates of completion and commissioning of the two projects as at present;
- (2) What are the respective expenditures involved in the monitoring of the two projects to ensure their timely completion for 2014-15 and 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 102)

Reply:

- (1) For the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section of the SCL, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) estimated that there would be a minimum delay of 11 months and an additional cost of at least \$4.1 billion, arising from the archaeological and conservation works at the To Kwa Wan Station. The current target is to commission the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section of the SCL in 2019.

For the Hung Hom to Admiralty section of the SCL, the commissioning date will very likely be deferred to 2021 to allow flexibility for the topside development of the convention centre at the Exhibition Station, and to cater for the reclamation works under the Wan Chai Development Phase II as well as the tunnel works of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass.

Owing to the site constraints of dense population, heavy traffic, congested underground utilities, and the uncertainty arising from the complex geological conditions underground, there has been some delay in the construction of the Whampoa Station. The current target of the MTRCL is to commission the KTE in mid-2016. The MTRCL will continue to review the progress of the works and update the target date of commissioning when necessary.

- (2) The Highways Department deploys in-house staff resources to closely monitor the implementation of the SCL and the KTE projects. A consultant has been employed to assist the HyD to carry out the monitoring and verification (M&V) work for the SCL project. The total consultancy fee spent in 2014-15 is \$22.8 million. The estimated expenditure for the M&V consultancy service in 2015-16 is \$23.5 million.

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