

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)250**

**(Question Serial No. 5350)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

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

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Over the past five years, what were the details of the items completed, the actual expenditure incurred and the number of staff involved in the provision of barrier-free access (BFA) facilities for public footbridges, elevated walkways and subways under the Universal Accessibility (UA) Programme? In 2015-2016, what are the details of the items to be commenced under the UA Programme? What is the actual project expenditure and the number of staff involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 177)

Reply:

The Government has been installing BFA facilities at public walkways (i.e. public footbridges, elevated walkways and subways maintained by the Highways Department (HyD)) for years (the Original Programme) on the recommendation of the Equal Opportunities Commission. The implementation of the remaining 154 items under the Original Programme continues. Most of the items are anticipated for progressive completion until 2018 as scheduled. As at 28 February 2015, ten items have been completed, 74 items are under construction and 35 items are anticipated to commence in 2015-16. The construction works for the remaining 35 items will commence as soon as possible upon completion of design and obtaining of support from the District Councils (DCs).

In August 2012, the Government launched the new UA Programme to further enhance the BFA facilities for existing public walkways maintained by the HyD. Installation of lifts at about 250 public walkways was proposed by the public. In the first half of 2013, we invited all the 18 DCs to prioritise the new items in their districts proposed by the public. Each DC selected three public walkways for priority implementation (the Expanded Programme). We have largely completed the technical feasibility studies and investigation works for these public walkways selected by the DCs. We reported the study findings and preliminary proposals to the DCs in the first quarter of 2014. The detailed design works

for those items confirmed to be technically feasible and supported by the DCs have commenced. Most of the retrofitting works items are anticipated for completion from 2017 to 2018 in phases. As at 28 February 2015, one priority item is under construction and 46 priority items are anticipated to commence construction in 2015-16. The construction works for the remaining ten priority items will commence as soon as possible upon completion of their investigation and design works, and obtaining of support from the DCs.

The expenditure on the UA Programme in 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 was \$6.6 million, \$28.5 million, \$232.2 million and \$558.4 million (estimated) respectively, covering the costs for conducting technical feasibility studies / investigation works, design, construction works and supervision of construction. The estimated expenditure in 2015-16 is \$840 million. The Government has been deploying existing staff resources to oversee the implementation of the UA Programme.

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