

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)022

(Question Serial No. 0734)

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:

Regarding “provision of barrier-free access (BFA) facilities at public footbridges, elevated walkways and subways under the Universal Accessibility (UA) Programme” as stated in the Estimates, please advise on the following:

- (a) How many BFA facilities have been under planning and construction since the commencement of the UA Programme? (Please list out by year with progress included.)
- (b) How many new BFA facilities are planned for this year? How much is allocated for the expenses?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kam-lam (Member Question No. 34)

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 does 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. Nonetheless, the information sought is provided below:

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 a number of years (the Original Programme) on the recommendation of the Equal Opportunities Commission. The implementation of 150 items under the Original Programme continues in the past three years, with most of the items anticipated for progressive completion by 2018 as scheduled. As at 29 February 2016, 29 items (one item

in 2013, nine items in 2014, 15 items in 2015 and four items in early 2016) have been completed, 91 items (21 items commenced construction in 2013, 34 items in 2014 and 36 items in 2015) are under construction, and 13 items are anticipated to commence in 2016-17. The construction works for the remaining 17 items will commence as soon as possible upon completion of detailed design and obtaining of support from the relevant 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). The implementation of these priority items under the Expanded Programme is well underway. Most of the retrofitting works items are anticipated for completion from 2017 to 2018 in phases. As at 29 February 2016, 49 priority items (one item commenced in 2014 and 48 items in 2015) are under construction, seven priority items are anticipated to commence construction in 2016-17 and one priority item will commence construction as soon as possible upon completion of the investigation and design works, and obtaining of support from the DC concerned.

The estimated expenditure on the UA Programme in 2016-17 is \$788.7 million.

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