CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1523)

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:

It is noted that the Railway Development Office (RDO) of the Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for the tasks under this programme. Will the Government inform this Committee of the main duties, operational expenditure, staff establishment and full year salary expenditure for the RDO of the HyD in the 2016-17 estimates?

Asked by: Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the major duties of the RDO are to –
(a)   co-ordinate actions with bodies and departments concerned to speed up land resumption and to resolve interface problems to facilitate implementation of the railway projects;
(b)   oversee the progress of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the South Island Line (East), the Kwun Tong Line Extension and the Shatin to Central Link to ensure their timely completion;
(c)   continue to take forward the railway schemes recommended under the Railway Development Strategy 2014;
(d)   scrutinise submissions including project estimates by the MTR Corporation Limited on the implementation of railway projects;
(e)   co-ordinate with the Mainland authorities on cross-boundary infrastructure developments; and
(f)   continue to undertake route protection of the recommended railway projects and other longer term proposals.

The HyD deploys in-house staff resources (with a projected staff establishment of 134 as at 31 March 2017), with the assistance of consultants on some specialised tasks, to monitor the

implementation of the railway projects.   The operating expenses, including staff salaries, of the RDO in 2016-17 will be about $125.5 million.

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