

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)029

(Question Serial No. 2032)

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:

The staff establishment under the Highways Department (HyD)'s Programme (3) Railway Development is 134. In this respect, please provide a breakdown of the entire staff establishment by post, salary, duties and responsibilities for overseeing:

- (a) the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) project;
- (b) the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project; and
- (c) the South Island Line (East) [(SIL(E)] project.

Asked by: Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai (Member Question No. 60)

Reply:

- (a) A dedicated division in the Railway Development Office (RDO) of the HyD is responsible for the planning and implementation of the XRL project, including the associated Essential Public Infrastructure Works (EPIW). The major duties and responsibilities of the division include –
 - (i) monitoring the planning, design, implementation and commissioning of the XRL entrusted to the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL);
 - (ii) administering the Public Works Programme items relating to the XRL, including the associated EPIW, e.g. pedestrian linkage to the West Kowloon Terminus;
 - (iii) administering the Entrustment Agreement for the construction of the XRL with the MTRCL, and resolving claims and disputes arising from the XRL project;
 - (iv) with the assistance of the monitoring and verification (M&V) consultant, monitoring the MTRCL to ensure proper adoption of appropriate strategy, procedures and programmes on the engineering and financial aspects of the XRL;
 - (v) preparing the documents for the gazettal of the schemes under relevant

- ordinances and resolving objections under the ordinances;
- (vi) co-ordinating with other government bureaux/departments and resolving interface matters related to the XRL; and
- (vii) monitoring and reviewing the assessment of claims by the MTRCL for the XRL construction contracts.

The HyD deploys in-house staff resources, with the assistance of its M&V consultant, to monitor the implementation of the XRL project. As at March 2016, there are six Senior Engineers (SEs), ten Engineers and one Assistant Engineer in the division*, with a total estimated staff cost of \$15.6 million in 2016-17. A number of staff provide support to the dedicated division and other divisions in the RDO.

* A supernumerary Chief Engineer (CE) post in the dedicated division for the XRL project lapsed on 7 July 2015. Pending approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to re-create the post, the duties of the post are shared by the other CEs in the RDO either directly or indirectly.

- (b) Two divisions (one of the divisions is also responsible for overseeing the Kwun Tong Line Extension project) in the RDO of the HyD are responsible for the planning and implementation of the SCL project, including the associated EPIW. The major duties and responsibilities of the divisions include –
 - (i) monitoring the planning, design, implementation and commissioning of the SCL entrusted to the MTRCL;
 - (ii) administering the Public Works Programme items relating to the SCL, including the associated EPIW, e.g. pedestrian walkway system at Tsz Wan Shan;
 - (iii) administering the Entrustment Agreement for the construction of the SCL with the MTRCL, and resolving claims and disputes arising from the SCL project;
 - (iv) with the assistance of the M&V consultant, monitoring the MTRCL to ensure proper adoption of appropriate strategy, procedures and programmes on the engineering and financial aspects of the SCL;
 - (v) preparing the documents for the gazettal of the schemes under relevant ordinances and resolving objections under the ordinances;
 - (vi) co-ordinating with other government bureaux/departments and resolving interface matters related to the SCL; and
 - (vii) monitoring and reviewing the assessment of claims by the MTRCL for the SCL construction contracts.

The HyD deploys in-house staff resources, with the assistance of its M&V consultant, to monitor the implementation of the SCL project. As at March 2016, there are two CEs, six SEs and eight Engineers in the divisions, with a total estimated staff cost of \$16.8 million in 2016-17. A number of staff provide support to the two divisions and other divisions in the RDO.

- (c) A dedicated division in the RDO of the HyD is responsible for facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the SIL(E) project by the MTRCL, including the associated EPIW. The major duties and responsibilities of the division include –

- (i) monitoring the planning, design, implementation and commissioning of the SIL(E) owned by the MTRCL;
- (ii) administering the Public Works Programme item relating to the SIL(E), that is the EPIW;
- (iii) administering the Entrustment Agreement for the construction of the EPIW for the SIL(E) with the MTRCL, and resolving claims and disputes arising from the EPIW;
- (iv) preparing the documents for the gazettal of the schemes under relevant ordinances and resolving objections under the ordinances; and
- (v) co-ordinating with other government bureaux/departments and resolving interface matters related to the SIL(E).

The HyD deploys in-house staff resources to monitor the implementation of the SIL(E) project. As at March 2016, there are one CE, two SEs and three Engineers in the division, with a total estimated staff cost of \$6.4 million in 2016-17. A number of staff provide support to the dedicated division and other divisions in the RDO.

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