

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)198

(Question Serial No. 2487)

Head: (706) Capital Works Reserve Fund - Highways

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

According to Subhead 6845TH (Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong boundary crossing facilities (HKBCF) – reclamation and superstructures), the estimate for 2016-17 is \$9,811.95 million, representing an increase of more than \$4,467 million over the revised estimate for 2015-16. What is the reason for the significant increase? What is the timetable for using the remaining provision? How can the progress of the project be expedited?

Asked by: Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung (Member Question No. 49)

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:

Subhead 6845TH involves reclamation works of the HZMB HKBCF and superstructure works on the HKBCF. Superstructure works have commenced by phases since 2014. As more superstructure works will take place in 2016-17, the expenditure under Subhead 6845TH is expected to increase in 2016-17 when compared to 2015-16.

The expenditure forecast for Subhead 6845TH in the coming years is as follows:

Year	Expenditure forecast (in money-of-the-day prices) (\$ million)
2016-17	9,812.0
2017-18	7,481.1
2018-19	3,596.7
2019-20	3,039.9

The Highways Department will continue to closely monitor the programme of works of the HKBCF, and to explore with its consultants and contractors on measures to expedite the progress of works. It is anticipated that the essential works for the commissioning of the HKBCF will be completed by the end of 2017.

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