

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)245

(Question Serial No. 3453)

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:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraph 148 of the 2015-16 Budget Speech that he had “asked all policy bureaux... to achieve more efficient use of resources through re-engineering and re-prioritising” and “launched the 0-1-1 envelope savings programme to reduce operating expenditure by a total of two per cent over the next three financial years. Resources saved will be re-allocated for new services.” Please inform this Committee of the implementation of the 0-1-1 envelope savings programme by the Highways Department (HyD) in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, the services affected by the programme and details of the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 151)

Reply:

The HyD will deliver the savings through re-engineering and re-prioritisation. In order to achieve the required cost saving while maintaining the service quality, the HyD would review the priorities of various tasks and activities, and streamline the arrangements in providing the various operation and maintenance services having regard to their actual needs and specific circumstances. Among others, the arrangements for cleansing of traffic signs and highway structures as well as the inspection of low traffic roads would be revisited. Measures to enhance energy saving so as to reduce electricity costs would also be taken forward.

The estimate of the HyD for 2016-17 is higher than that for 2015-16 by 9.5%, reflecting efficiency savings to be achieved through the 0-1-1 programme and new resources allocated to the HyD for delivering new/improved services.

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