

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)236

(Question Serial No. 6332)

Head: (60) Highways Department

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

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Daniel K W CHUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the Department's duty of cleansing all footbridges and subways, there has been newspaper coverage of workers sent by the Government spraying footbridges and subways where many street-sleepers reside with bleaching powder when they were carrying out cleansing tasks and that the properties of street-sleepers were removed without prior notice. Would the Government advise this Committee on the following -

- (1) Does the Department have any administrative guidelines concerning the cleansing of footbridges and subways in the territory? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (2) What are the reasons for the Department to apply bleaching powder when cleansing the district facilities?
- (3) What was the annual expenditure on cleansing various types of district facilities over the past 5 years? Please provide a breakdown by type of district facilities.
- (4) What is the staff establishment for those tasked to cleanse various types of district facilities?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3164)

Reply:

- (1) The Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for the structural maintenance of the footbridges and subways under their ambit. To ensure the structures of these facilities are in good condition, the HyD will deploy staff to conduct regular inspection on footbridges and subways for timely cleansing arrangements. According to the HyD's performance pledge and the requirements stipulated in the maintenance contract between the department and the contractor, thorough cleansing of footbridges and subways will be conducted at least once per quarter whereas the floor of footbridges and subways of high usage will be cleansed at least once per month. Depending on the actual need, the HyD will also conduct more inspections and cleansing to ensure their structures remain in good condition.
- (2) The HyD does not use bleaching powder when cleansing footbridges and subways.

(3) Routine maintenance tasks for footbridges and subways are carried out by the contractors engaged by the HyD. Cleansing of footbridges and subways is one of the duties of the contractors. In the past 5 years (2012-2016), the average yearly expenditure of the HyD on cleansing of road structures (including footbridges, flyovers and subways as well as noise barriers, etc. maintained by the HyD) is \$44.7 million. As cleansing of footbridges and subways is only part of the maintenance works, the HyD has not kept a separate breakdown on the expenditure for such work.

(4) As cleansing of footbridges and subways is only part of the HyD's district and maintenance works, the Government has not kept a separate breakdown of the staff establishment for cleansing work.

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