

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)097

(Question Serial No. 1817)

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (4) Technical Services

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Department will enhance the maintenance of vegetation for roadside slopes and expressways. Are there any plans to review the method of planting trees on major walkways in each district to ensure the safety of pedestrians? If so, what are the objectives and performance indicators?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 22)

Reply:

The Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for maintaining vegetation on slopes under HyD's maintenance and within the boundaries of expressways. Regular horticultural inspections are conducted at least once every six months and necessary maintenance operations, such as pruning, pest control and removal of hazardous trees, are carried out in order to ensure public road safety.

HyD carries out tree planting work on a slope, where suitable, when there are upgrading/improvement works for the slope. The planting work will be designed and implemented according to the "Right Tree, Right Place" principle and relevant planting guidelines, including "Proper Planting Practices" promulgated by the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau and "Technical Guidelines on Landscape Treatment for Slopes" (GEO Publication No. 1/2011) published by the Civil Engineering and Development Department. For example, trees will be pruned to maintain the minimum headroom required for footway and they will not be planted on slopes with a gradient greater than 35 degrees. By following the principle and guidelines, HyD will continue its efforts to ensure public road safety.

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