

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)035

(Question Serial No. 0147)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Railway Development
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20, that the Department will coordinate with the Mainland authorities on cross-boundary infrastructure developments. In the regard, will the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the details and estimated financial provision for the proposed work?
2. as public confidence on safety and integrity of construction works has been greatly deteriorated by recent incidents, frequent delay and overrun, whether additional measures will be implemented to prevent rising cost and guarantee construction quality.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

The cross-boundary infrastructure development in question is the Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link project. Officers at various ranks of the Highways Department (HyD) may discuss and exchange views with the Mainland authorities at working level on improvement works as and when necessary. The work involved is undertaken by the staff of the HyD as part of their duties. There is no separate breakdown of expenditure for such work.

In the light of the recent concerns about the quality of construction works of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project, the HyD has enhanced site supervision and management such as increasing the frequency of site visits and conducting independent surprise checks, in order to strengthen supervision of the work of the MTR Corporation Limited. The interim report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Construction Works at and near the Hung Hom Station Extension under the SCL project (CoI) was made public on 26 March 2019. We will seriously consider and follow up the recommendations of the CoI to promote public safety and assurance on the quality of works for the future railway projects.

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