

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)036

(Question Serial No. 0149)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Capital Projects
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19", the Administration states that it will continue to take forward the provision of barrier-free access facilities for existing footbridges, elevated walkways and subways under the "Universal Accessibility" (UA) Programme." Please provide the manpower and resources allocated to execute the above policy as well as the number of jobs that will be created as well as the number of citizens that are going to be benefited from this Programme.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

Under the "Original Programme" and "Expanded Programme" of the UA Programme, we have been pressing ahead with the implementation of a total of 202 items. As at 28 February 2019, 121 items were completed and 70 items were under construction. Construction for the remaining 11 items will commence as soon as possible upon completion of detailed design and other related work.

Under the "Second Phase" of the UA Programme (previously referred to as "Next Phase" and subsequently renamed as the "Second Phase"), we have been carrying out investigation and design work for the 45 items and will commence the construction works progressively starting from 2019.

As the UA Programme has been widely supported by the community, the Government announced in the 2018 Policy Address that we would carry out a feasibility study on lift retrofitting proposals for some 120 remaining walkways in various districts under the current ambit of the Programme with a view to taking forward the feasible items expeditiously so as to benefit the elderly and people in need (referred to as the "Third Phase"). We will engage consultants in the second quarter of 2019 to carry out investigation and design work for the "Third Phase", with a view to commencing construction works progressively starting from 2021.

The expenditures on the UA Programme in 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 were \$6.6 million, \$28.5 million, \$232.2 million, \$554.3 million, \$779.0 million, \$801.9 million, \$855.0 million and \$751.6 million (estimate) respectively, covering the costs for conducting technical feasibility studies / investigation works, design, construction works and supervision of construction. The estimated expenditure of the UA Programme in 2019-20 is \$652.8 million. Apart from deploying existing staff resources to take forward previous phases of the UA Programme, the Highways Department will deploy one Senior Engineer and three Engineers/Assistant Engineers (supported by a Clerical Assistant) in 2019-20 to oversee the “Third Phase” mentioned above. The works under the UA Programme have been creating about 1 200 jobs each year.

The UA Programme would provide / enhance the barrier-free access facilities at about 370 walkways in various districts to facilitate the access of the elderly and people in need.

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