

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)039

(Question Serial No. 2782)

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:

The work of the Highways Department in the coming year includes to “oversee the progress of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) for its timely completion and resolve the suspected works quality issues at Hung Hom Station (HUH) Extension.” In this regard, will the Government advise this Committee of the following -

- (1) Regarding the works quality issues of the SCL, how will the Government “resolve” the works quality issues?
- (2) The Government is currently opening up the concrete to inspect the reinforcement bars at HUH. Have the relevant inspection procedures been completed? Could the Government announce the results? Among the inspected reinforcement bars, what are the number and percentage of substandard bars? Using statistical methods, what is the estimated total number of substandard reinforcement bars at the entire HUH?
- (3) According to relevant standards, what is the percentage of substandard reinforcement bars that would be considered “unacceptable”? Does the Government accept the results of the current inspection?
- (4) If the percentage of substandard reinforcement bars reached the “unacceptable” level, what is the worst-case scenario adopted by the Government? Will the Government consider demolishing the HUH for reconstruction?
- (5) Regarding the missing of Request for Inspection, Survey and Check (RISC) forms, apart from HUH, do other stations have similar problems, i.e. missing construction records and amendment of layout plans that do not conform to the established procedures?
- (6) What does “timely” completion of the SCL mean? Will the Government consider the option of partial commissioning? If so, will the Government consider commissioning the SCL to Ho Man Tin Station instead of to Diamond Hill Station only?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

(1) – (4)

As far as the quality issue of the works at HUH Extension is concerned, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) is conducting a three-stage holistic assessment. In the first stage, the MTRCL has reviewed the relevant construction records and the latest design amendment drawings. In the second stage, MTRCL has been opening up part of the East West Corridor and the North South Corridor platform slabs to verify the details of the rebar connections and whether the couplers and rebars are properly connected. The second stage also includes a review on other irregularities suspected or made known during the investigation so as to investigate the severity, extent and impact of these issues in detail. In the third stage, MTRCL will conduct a comprehensive review and a detailed structural analysis on the entire HUH Extension based on the test results and other construction issues found in the first two stages to ascertain if the overall condition of the works is acceptable and identify remedial / strengthening works (if required). The Transport and Housing Bureau and its Expert Adviser Team, the Highways Department (HyD) and its Monitoring and Verification consultant, as well as the Buildings Department, are closely monitoring the progress of the holistic assessment being conducted by MTRCL and will review the results when available.

(5) – (6)

The Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section of the SCL was scheduled to be commissioned in mid-2019. However, due to the concerns of the quality of works of HUH and other stations, the target commissioning date will need to be reviewed.

As regards requests for partial commissioning of the Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section, we have asked MTRCL to study different options with a view to commissioning as many stations and sections as possible, if partial commissioning is found necessary. The Government and MTRCL will make a more comprehensive assessment in the light of the findings of the Holistic Assessment Strategy, taking into account the technical feasibility of opening part of the railway section, the capacity of the railway system, the modification to the signalling system, the compatibility of the road transport, etc. In the meantime, MTRCL is undertaking the necessary preparatory groundwork to preserve and protect all practicable options.

As part of the preparation for the commissioning of the Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section, we have implemented a three-tier audit of all relevant stations (other than HUH) as follows –

- (a) firstly, the Government has asked MTRCL to conduct an internal audit on other SCL stations in order to ensure that the construction details are in compliance with the design and acceptable standards;
- (b) secondly, HyD and its Monitoring and Verification consultant are conducting audits on other SCL stations under the supervision of the Expert Adviser Team for the SCL project. The first stage audit was conducted from end January to early March 2019 and

covered To Kwa Wan Station and Diamond Hill Station with focus on records on quality control of works and site supervision. The RISC forms and coupler-related site records for Diamond Hill Station were found to be generally acceptable. Nevertheless, there were deficiencies in the RISC forms of the structural works and coupler-related site records for To Kwa Wan Station. MTRCL was informed of the audit findings in mid-March 2019 and the Government requested MTRCL to carry out an investigation to assess the full extent of the problem and its potential implications, and propose remedial actions. The audit will be extended to the remaining SCL stations, with priority given to those essential under various options of partial commissioning of the Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section, i.e. Tai Wai Station, Hin Keng Station, Kai Tak Station and Sung Wong Toi Station; and

- (c) finally, MTRCL has to submit to the Government the Certificate of Completion together with relevant documents. The Government will conduct the necessary site inspection. If the works are completed to the Government's satisfaction, a no objection letter will be issued by the relevant authority (Building Authority or HyD as appropriate) to acknowledge the Certificate of Completion.

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