

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)020

(Question Serial No. 2855)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (272) Electricity for public lighting
Programme: (4) Technical Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Government on electricity for public lighting is higher than that in the last two financial years. Please inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reason why there is an increase in the expenditure of the Government on electricity for public lighting as compared to the estimates in the past?
- (2) The Highways Department (HyD) has pledged to implement a trial scheme in all districts across the territory to assess the performance and cost-effectiveness of light emitting diode (LED) road lights. Please provide, with a breakdown by the 18 districts of Hong Kong, the current numbers of road lights and that being replaced by low wattage LED road lights in each district;
- (3) The public have expressed concerns about the impact of LED road lights on human health in the past. Please provide the number of complaints received after the installation of LED road lights with a breakdown by the 18 districts of Hong Kong. Whether the Government has any measures to allay public concerns?

Asked by: Hon FAN Kwok-wai, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

- (1) The estimated expenditure on electricity for public lighting covers electricity charge for all highways facilities, including public lighting, traffic signals, lifts and escalators for footbridges and subways, and ventilation systems for public transport interchanges. The increase in the estimated expenditure for 2019-20 is mainly due to the tariff increase by the two power companies in 2019 and the commissioning of new lighting installation under large-scale transport infrastructure projects.
- (2) Since the availability of LED road light products in the market, the HyD has been monitoring the technological and market development of LED road lights and has carried out various field trial schemes on the use of LED road lights since 2009. As more brands of LED products with qualified certification become available in the market with significant drop in prices, the HyD has commenced the LED Public

Lighting Replacement Programme in 2017-18 and replacement works are taken forward progressively.

The total number of road lights and LED road lights installed in the 18 Districts as at 31 January 2019 are as follows:-

District	Total Number of Road Lights (rounded to nearest ten)	Number of LED Road Lights Installed
Central & Western	5 230	0
Eastern	4 020	24
Southern	4 520	11
Wan Chai	3 920	30
Kowloon City	4 890	203
Kwun Tong	5 230	30
Sham Shui Po	4 660	176
Wong Tai Sin	2 440	9
Yau Tsim Mong	5 030	101
Islands	8 540	1 106
Kwai Tsing	7 550	124
North	14 200	1 134
Sai Kung	9 840	560
Sha Tin	12 520	982
Tai Po	10 690	1 223
Tsuen Wan	7 560	425
Tuen Mun	9 150	507
Yuen Long	24 940	2 521
Total	144 930	9 166

- (3) A total of 26 complaints about excessive luminous level of LED road lights had been received from 1 January 2018 to 31 January 2019. The complaints were received from Islands (8 nos.), North (3 nos.), Shatin (2 nos.), Tai Po (6 nos.), Tuen Mun (2 nos.) and Yuen Long (5 nos.) Districts. Various improvement measures have been implemented in response to the complaints, including the adjustment of luminous level and angle of the lights, as well as installation of light shields to avoid diffusion of light. The HyD has adopted LED road lights which comply with the American Medical Association's guidance of using road lights with colour temperature not exceeding 3000K, i.e. less white colour, to avoid potential impact on human health.

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