

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)024

(Question Serial No. 0303)

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

As violent acts on streets continued in the past six months or so, road facilities including traffic lights, paving blocks, railings, refuge islands and directional signboards in various districts have been damaged, causing traffic congestion and chaos during rush hour. Some road facilities are still not in service. In this regard, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the numbers of damaged and repaired traffic lights respectively as of today and the manpower and expenditure involved;
- (2) of the areas of roads damaged and repaired respectively as of today and the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- (3) whether the Government has allocated additional resources and manpower to repair the road facilities, e.g. forming a dedicated team to reinstate relevant facilities, proactively inspect and repair road facilities in various districts, including traffic lights, paving blocks, railings, refuge islands, directional signboards, etc. If so, what are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

From June 2019 to February 2020, a total of 740 sets of traffic lights were vandalised across the territory. All the vandalised traffic lights by and large resumed operation as at end February 2020. The repair works cost about \$40 million and was overseen by existing staff of the Transport Department and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. There is no separate breakdown for the manpower deployed for the above repair works.

Apart from traffic lights, a total of 1 463 traffic bollards and 87 traffic signs were damaged during the same period. Also, some 55 kilometres of railings and some 22 000 square metres of paving blocks of footpaths were removed.

All traffic bollards and traffic signs were repaired by end February 2020. Regarding the railings, having discussed with other relevant departments, the Highways Department (HyD) has temporarily put up plastic chains to alert road users at locations where the railings have been removed. HyD has been gradually reinstating the railings with reinforced and enhanced design. As for paving blocks of footpaths, HyD has rectified the damages.

As the repair works are still in progress, the final cost of HyD's repair works has yet been concluded but is estimated to be about \$28 million. HyD has deployed existing staff to oversee the repair works during the above period. There is no separate breakdown for the manpower deployed. Additional manpower comprising two Engineers, eight Inspector of Works and 16 Works Supervisors will be allocated to HyD on a time-limited basis to supervise the repairs of road facilities (starting from 1 June 2020).

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