

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)025

(Question Serial No. 1404)

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:

During the protests over the past six months or so, quite a lot of pedestrian signals, traffic lights and fences on both sides of the road were damaged or dismantled. These damaged road facilities might lead to more accidents and catastrophic consequences. In this regard, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the respective numbers of item damaged and the restoration progress;
- (b) the locations of fences on both sides of the road yet to be restored and the completion schedule for relevant restoration works; and
- (c) the additional staff establishment and expenditure involved in relevant restoration works.

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

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 were 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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