

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)029**

**(Question Serial No. 2434)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 146 of the Budget speech that the Government will progressively implement the new railway projects recommended under the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014). It has been three years since the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) submitted the proposal for the East Kowloon Line (EKL) railway project to the Government. What are the progress of the assessment and planning of the EKL railway project undertaken by the Government? When will the concrete proposal, alignment options and implementation programme be announced to the public? What are the staff establishment and expenditure set aside to handle the relevant tasks in the new financial year?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

Upon the invitation of the Transport and Housing Bureau, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) had submitted a proposal for the implementation of EKL under RDS-2014 to the Government. Upon receipt of MTRCL's proposal, relevant bureaux/departments have evaluated the proposal and requested MTRCL to provide additional information and supplement details. MTRCL is considering the comments and exploring feasible options for the design improvement for this project.

When the details of a proposed railway scheme, such as the alignment, location of station(s) and implementation timetable, are available, the Government will consult the public, including the Legislative Council and the relevant District Councils, in line with established procedures.

The above work is undertaken by existing staff of the Highways Department.

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