

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB290

(Question Serial No. 4979)

Head: (60) Highways Department

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

Programme: (1) Capital Works

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In the coming year, the Administration will continue to oversee the retrofitting of noise barriers on Tuen Mun Road (Town Centre Section) and Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section). To this end, please advise this Committee on: (1) the total expenditure of the project and the works progress of each item as of today; and (2) regarding the claims arising from the construction of various items of the route so far, please provide the following information in table form:

Scope of works	Contract No.	Contract sum	Contractor	No. of claims	Amount claimed	Amount awarded

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 802)

Reply:

The retrofitting of noise barriers on Tuen Mun Road (Town Centre Section) commenced in December 2015 and was completed in March this year. The project mainly involves the retrofitting of noise barriers on Tuen Mun Road (Town Centre Section) between Rose Dale Garden and Lakeshore Building to mitigate the impact of traffic noise on neighbouring residents. Up to end March 2020, the cumulative expenditure of the project is about \$523.9 million. It is expected that the project will be completed within the approved project estimate of \$826.5 million.

Moreover, the Highways Department has entrusted the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to take forward the noise barriers retrofitting works on Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section), which commenced in July 2018 and is anticipated to be completed in September 2023. The project mainly involves the retrofitting of noise barriers on Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) near Scenery Court and Wo Che Estate to mitigate the impact of traffic noise on neighbouring residents. Up to end March 2020, the cumulative expenditure of the project is about \$42 million. It is expected that the project will be completed within the approved project estimate of \$851.8 million.

Generally speaking, it is the responsibility of the contractor to complete the works within the specified time and cost required in the contract. In the event of any unforeseen circumstances, the contractor may lodge claims in accordance with the terms of the contracts and substantiate with sufficient justification and information regarding the claims. The consultant appointed by the managing department will carefully and independently assess the claims and then submit the assessment to the managing department for consideration. The managing department will scrutinise the assessment of the contractor's claims in order to ensure that every claim is handled strictly based on the terms of the contract.

As at end February 2020, there are 6 claims with claimed amount lodged by the contractor in relation to the retrofitting of noise barriers on Tuen Mun Road (Town Centre Section). The total amount claimed is about \$17.9 million while the total awarded amount is about \$5.6 million. According to the relevant terms of the works contracts, the Government cannot divulge information on individual claims without the consent of the contractors. According to the CEDD, there is no claim received regarding the noise barriers retrofitting works on Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section).

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