

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)248****(Question Serial No. 4981)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

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

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In the coming year, the Administration will continue to oversee the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL) Northern Connection project. To this end, please advise this Committee: (1) on the total expenditure of the project and the works progress of each item to date; and (2) regarding the claims arising from the construction of various items under the TM-CLKL Northern Connection project 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.: 804)

Reply:

The total approved project estimate of the TM-CLKL project is 46,708 million. The construction of TM-CLKL Northern Connection has reached an advanced stage, with the structures of the sub-sea tunnel and ancillary buildings substantially completed. Installation of the electrical and mechanical systems inside the tunnel as well as the fitting-out and building services works inside the ancillary buildings are underway.

The TM-CLKL Northern Connection is planned to be completed in end 2020 at the earliest and it is expected that the project will be completed within the Approved Project Estimate. However, due to unforeseen events including the Novel Coronavirus epidemic in recent months, the supply chain of construction materials and installations from the Mainland has been affected and the workforce for site works has been reduced. The Highways Department (HyD) will closely monitor the progress of works and assess the impacts on the commissioning target.

It is the responsibility of the contractors of the TM-CLKL Northern Connection to complete the works within the specified time and cost as required in the contracts. In the event of

unforeseen circumstances, the contractors may submit claims according to the terms of the contracts, and substantiate the claims with sufficient justifications and information. The consultant engineers appointed by HyD have to assess the claims carefully and independently, and then submit them to HyD for approval. HyD conducts detailed reviews of the assessments made by the consultant engineers on the claims to ensure that the claims are being handled strictly in accordance with the terms of the contracts.

As at end February 2020, the claims in relation to the TM-CLKL Northern Connection, submitted by the contractors are as follows:-

Number of claims with amount specified	Amount claimed	Amount assessed	Amount awarded
44	\$1.20 billion	\$1.15 billion	\$0.56 billion

According to the relevant terms of the works contracts, the Government cannot divulge information on individual claims without the consent of the contractors.

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