

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-THB(T)003**

**(Question Serial No. S028)**

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:

It is mentioned in the reply that the estimated increase in expenditure on highways maintenance is mainly due to the need to provide additional provisions to cater for the projects commissioned in 2019 or scheduled to be commissioned in 2020. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Why is it necessary to include provisions for the maintenance of newly commissioned projects? Does this reflect the Administration has failed to perform the gatekeeping role in checking those projects upon completion?
- (2) According to the terms of general construction contracts, contractors are required to provide free maintenance for relevant project items within a specific period after completion. Are such terms not included in the contracts of projects like Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Highway and the Widening of Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway between Island House Interchange and Fanling - Stage 2, such that provisions for maintenance have to be set aside immediately after their completion?
- (3) It is provided in the reply that some road maintenance works could not be carried out as planned due to social movements. What is the cost arising from the delayed works? In addition, has provision been included in the estimated expenditure for 2020 to cater for repairing road damages caused by recent social movements?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: )

Reply:

(1) The Highways Department carries out a series of day-to-day operational and maintenance activities on all public roads, including newly commissioned highways projects, in order to keep roads in safe and serviceable conditions. Such activities include routine inspections of the roads, maintenance of roadside slopes (such as weeding and clearing of drains), statutory inspection of lifts and escalators and inspection of public lighting systems, etc.

(2) There are provisions in road works contracts requiring the contractor to be responsible for work of repair or rectification, or make good any defect, imperfection or other fault

identified after completion of the works. However, expenditure arising from normal operation of the roads will not be borne by the contractor.

(3) The cost of maintenance works brought forward from 2019-20 as a result of public order events is estimated to be about \$34 million. The amount reserved in 2020-21 is considered sufficient to fund the planned maintenance works in 2020-21, including those brought forward from the previous financial year due to public order events.

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