

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB030

(Question Serial No. 2047)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (4) Technical Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (YAU Kwok-ting)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

According to the figures of the Highways Department (HyD), there are more than 140,000 street lamps in Hong Kong. They are located on carriageways, pavements and cycle tracks. Regarding the multi-functional smart lampposts and solar road lights that are currently tested by the Government, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the numbers of solar road lights/facilities currently installed in Hong Kong and list the districts that they are distributed;
- (b) the cost of each solar road light/facility and the estimated installation expenses, and the maintenance expenses of the solar road lights/facilities involved over the past 3 years;
- (c) the numbers anticipated to be increased every year and the estimated expenses?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for installing road lights on public roads and rural roads in need under the Village Lighting Programme (VLP). In the circumstances that electricity supply is not available for the districts or affected by damaged underground electricity cables, the installation of solar road lights can provide limited lighting services as an interim measure. After permanent electricity supply is available for the relevant districts or resumed, the solar road lights will be replaced by ordinary road lights to provide more reliable and stable public lighting services.

- (a) A total of 115 solar road lights are currently installed in Hong Kong. The districts that they are distributed are listed in the following table:

Districts	Solar Road Lights (Numbers)
North District	45

Districts	Solar Road Lights (Numbers)
Yuen Long	36
Tsuen Wan	9
Tai Po	7
Tuen Mun	5
Kowloon City	5
Kwai Tsing	2
Sai Kung	2
Sham Shui Po	2
Kwun Tong	1
Eastern District	1
Total	115

- (b) The installation expense of each solar road light is about \$17,500. The maintenance expense of solar road lights over the past 3 financial years was about \$6,000.
- (c) The solar road lights provide limited lighting services as an interim measure. The number of installations is subject to actual situations and needs, such as whether electricity supply is available on the relevant roads for installing ordinary road lights, whether there is enough space in the surrounding areas for the normal operation of solar road lights and the opinions of the residents nearby towards installing solar road lights. Therefore, we are not able to provide the numbers anticipated to be increased every year and the estimated expenses.

However, according to the records of the past 4 financial years, the HyD installed an average of about 25 solar road lights in various districts every year. The installation expense is about \$400,000 per year. We will conduct reviews subject to actual situations and needs and reserve a certain amount of estimated expenses every year for installing solar road lights.

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