

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)001

Question Serial No.

0017

Head : 62 Housing Department

Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The adoption of new indicators under this programme from 2004 onwards has resulted in a considerable reduction in the number of structures cleared in programmed squatter clearance or emergency clearance operations and in the number of buildings with completion of clearance of unauthorized rooftop structures. In this regard, please advise this Council of the following:

- (1) the details of the new indicators; and
- (2) the reasons for adopting the new indicators.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The new indicators adopted for 2004 seek to account for performance under the four major areas of work of the "squatter clearance and squatter control" programme, as follows :

- (a) programmed squatter clearances or emergency clearances;
- (b) unauthorised rooftop structure clearances;
- (c) squatter control; and
- (d) rehousing victims of emergency incidents.

The indicators for each area of work reflect the actual range of activities undertaken by Housing Department staff, e.g. squatter and rooftop structures dealt with, number of people relocated, number of cases handled during squatter control, and number of emergency incidents requiring Housing Department's assistance.

There is no relationship between adoption of the new indicators and reduction in workload. Reduction in the number of clearances in 2004 is mainly due to re-scheduling of some major development projects initiated by works departments. The target for clearance of unauthorised rooftop structures is in line with the pledge of 700 buildings every year as announced in 2001.

- (2) The new indicators are aimed to reflect in a more systematic and comprehensive manner the various activities under the Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control programme. It should also be noted that the indicators used previously concerning Cottage Area and Temporary Housing Area, all of which had been cleared, are no longer applicable.

Signature

Name in block letters

C.M. LEUNG

Permanent Secretary for Housing

Post title

Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date

26 March 2004