

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)011

Question Serial No.

1673

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 Government adopts new indicators in 2004 for “structures cleared under programmed squatter clearances or emergency clearances” and “buildings with rooftop clearance completed”. The estimated figures of these indicators have dropped by 70% and 20% respectively as compared with the figures in 2003. Please explain the difference between the new indicators and the original indicators, and the reasons for adopting the new indicators.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : In comparison with the indicators used previously, the new indicators adopted for 2004 seek to reflect in a more systematic and comprehensive manner the various activities undertaken by Housing Department staff 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.

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the indicators used previously concerning Cottage Area and Temporary Housing Area, all of which had been cleared, are no longer applicable.

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.

Signature	
Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
Post title	Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	26 March 2004