

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)089

(Question Serial No. 2896)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified
Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As shown in this year's estimates, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has recorded a more than 10% increase in year 2014 with regard to the number of incidents per lift or per escalator as well as the number of enquires/complaints handled, as compared with that of year 2013 (the Government explained that the increase was due to the rising awareness of Responsible Persons of lifts and escalators about their responsibility of reporting incidents under the new Lifts and Escalators Ordinance). Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (i) Why the inspection percentage of existing lifts and escalators planned for 2015 is lowered from 17.2% (Actual) to 16.5% (Estimate) in spite of the increase in number of incidents?
- (ii) Regarding the budget estimate for the programme Mechanical Installations Safety being also lowered by 34.6% in comparison with the 2014-15 revised estimate, what is the reason for this?
- (iii) In view of the reduced budget estimate, what measures will be taken by the Government to reduce the number of lift and escalator incidents and to further safeguard public safety in using these installations?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kenneth (Member Question No. 2.07)

Reply:

- (i) In 2014, although there was an increase in the number of incidents per lift or per escalator, the vast majority of the incidents arose from inappropriate use of lifts and escalators. The increase in number of reported incidents is considered the result of rising awareness of Responsible Persons of their responsibility to report incidents, in response to the ongoing publicity activities. As for complaints/enquiries, they were likewise increased, and there were also more enquiries on modernisation of aged lifts.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) stepped up the target number of inspections for lifts and escalators from 10 564 in 2013 to 11 800 in 2014. The actual number of inspections in 2014 was 12 273 which exceeded the target by 473 inspections. In 2015, EMSD maintains the target of 11 800 inspections for lifts and escalators, and will continue to review the number of inspections required from time to time according to need.

- (ii) The revised estimate for the programme of Mechanical Installations Safety was higher in 2014-15 due to higher expenditure for modernisation of the aged lifts in government buildings. The estimated expenditure in this respect is reduced in 2015-16 because there are less aged lifts in government buildings requiring modernisation in this year, resulting in the lower estimate for the programme of Mechanical Installations Safety in 2015-16.
- (iii) As noted from (ii) above, the reduction in the estimate for the programme of Mechanical Installations Safety in 2015-16 is not related to the inspection and enforcement of lift and escalator safety. In 2015-16, EMSD will continue the stepped-up inspection and enforcement actions, public education and publicity efforts to enhance the safety of lifts and escalators.

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