

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB770

(Question Serial No. 3671)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

One of the responsibilities under this Programme is to plan and participate in the drills for nuclear emergency incidents. However, the Government had only participated in two drills last year, and no major drill for nuclear emergency incidents had been conducted for participation by the general public in the past few years. In this respect, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) In the past year, what was the expenditure for planning the drills for nuclear emergency incidents? How many drills for nuclear emergency incidents were proactively planned by the Government? What was the reason for not conducting territory-wide major drill for nuclear emergency incidents in the past few years for participation by the public?
- (2) It is understood that the Nuclear and Utility Safety Sub-division under the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department is responsible for planning and participating in drills for nuclear emergency incidents. Will the Government please advise the main job duties, establishment and estimated full-year payroll cost of this Sub-division in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wai-yip, Albert (Member Question No. 80)

Reply:

- (1) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been participating in the monthly communication drills for nuclear emergency incidents, which include communication testing and computer system network testing. As regards the large-scale inter-departmental exercise based on the Daya Bay Contingency Plan and the overall Emergency Response System, it is conducted in a cycle of every three to five years. The last exercise was completed in 2012 and about 3 200 public officers from more than 30 bureaux and departments, including the Chief Executive and a number of principal officials, as well as over 2 000 citizens participated in the exercise.

As the officers participating in the drills and exercise were also handling other duties at the same time, we do not have a breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.

- (2) EMSD provides engineering/technical advice and support to relevant bureaux on issues related to nuclear power and the handling of nuclear emergencies, including the monitoring and notification arrangements of nuclear incidents, as well as participating in drills for nuclear emergency incidents, in accordance with the established mechanism. EMSD assigns one Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer and two Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to handle work on nuclear safety. The total staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is about \$2.57 million.

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