

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4518)

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 Transport and Housing

Question:

With respect to the railway incidents investigated under the Programme, please advise this Committee if any serious incidents have been found in 2013 and 2014. If so, please advise on the details and whether there is any recommendation to the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) for follow-up action?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 95)

Reply:

In accordance with the Mass Transit Railway Regulations (Cap 556A) (the Regulations), the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) has to notify the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) of any incident that has occurred at any part of the entire railway premises, which has a direct bearing on the safe operation of the railway. In 2013 and 2014, the total numbers of these incidents reported to the EMSD are 1 526 and 1 449 respectively.

Of the above incidents, two reportable accidents under Regulation 2 of the Regulations^{Note} occurred on 17 May 2013 and 18 November 2014. Details are as follows:

- (1) On 17 May 2013, a Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) derailed when making a turn enroute from the Hang Mei Tsuen stop to the Tong Fong Tsuen stop. Eighty-one passengers were injured. Subsequently, the MTRCL has provided more frequent reminders to LRV captains on the importance of safe driving. The MTRCL has also stepped up spot-checks on the speed of LRVs. In addition, the MTRCL has installed fixed speed cameras at appropriate locations. Legal proceedings against the LRV captain concerned were completed, and the LRV captain was convicted of committing a negligent act.
- (2) On 18 November 2014, an empty Kowloon-Guangzhou Through Train derailed when entering the Ho Tung Lau Depot from up track of the Racecourse Station via a divider of a track. Investigation revealed that the incident was due to the deficiency of the

divider. No one was injured. Subsequently, the MTRCL has enhanced its maintenance procedures and frequency for the relevant equipment to avoid reoccurrence.

The Transport Branch of the THB has been apprised by the EMSD and the Transport Department of details of these accidents and of follow-up actions required and taken.

^{Note} Under Regulation 2, an accident is notifiable if it occurs on the railway and –

- (a) as a result thereof any person dies or suffers serious injury; or
- (b) it involves a train (i) colliding with, or striking against, another train or any other object; or (ii) leaving the rails, and doing so either on a line used for the carriage of passengers or goods or both passengers and goods, or in circumstances where the normal operation of such a line is affected.

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