

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 3122)**

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 (Alfred W H SIT)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the part on the Programme “Energy Supply; Electrical; Gas and Nuclear Safety”, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the specific work of the Government in monitoring the power companies and ensuring electrical safety? What are the estimated provision and staffing arrangement of the associated work for this year?
- (b) Please list in table form the number of inspections of the electrical safety of old buildings, the number of cases requiring follow-up actions/investigation and the number of prosecution cases in the past 3 years, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in such work; and
- (c) How many electrical incidents happened at their generation and electricity supply facilities were reported to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department by the power companies last year? Did these incidents involve casualties and fatalities? If yes, what are the respective numbers of cases?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 48)

Reply:

(a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Electricity Ordinance (Cap. 406), including regulatory work on registration of electrical workers, electrical contractors, competent persons, recognised certification bodies and recognised manufacturers; inspection of electrical installations and products; monitoring of safety performance of the power companies, investigation of electrical incidents; initiating prosecution and taking disciplinary actions; and promotion of electrical safety, etc. Besides, the EMSD also provides technical support to the Environment Bureau on the Scheme of Control Agreements signed between the two power companies and the Government. The

above-mentioned work is undertaken by around 87 EMSD staff including professional engineers, inspectors, etc. The total estimated staff expenditure in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value is about \$61.5 million.

(b) The number of inspections relating to old buildings is not available because the inspection of fixed electrical installations (FEIs) in buildings or premises by the EMSD is not categorised under new or old buildings. Nevertheless, the EMSD has the overall numbers of inspections of FEIs in buildings or premises which are provided as follows for reference:

Year	Number of Inspections of FEIs in Buildings or Premises @	Number of Cases Requiring Follow-up Actions/ Investigation		Number of Cases with Prosecution Actions Completed #	
		Cases Involving Periodic Test Certificate	Cases Involving Reports, Incident Investigation and Others	Cases of Non-compliance with the Statutory Requirements on Submission of Periodic Test Certificate	Cases Involving Reports, Incident Investigation and Others
2017	8 325	1 961	763	756	91
2016	8 102	1 737	764	619	51
2015	8 487	2 115	673	587	70

@Note : The relatively greater numbers of inspections in 2015 and 2017 were mainly due to the increased special inspection operation for premises requiring special attention, e.g. sub-divided units, hawker stalls, squatter houses and mini-stores, etc.

#Note : The number of prosecution cases is based on the number of summonses issued by courts, therefore, a case requiring follow-up action/investigation may involve several summonses.

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

(c) The respective numbers of electrical incidents happened at their generation and electricity supply facilities and injured persons reported to the EMSD by the power companies last year are given below:

Year	Number of Electrical Incidents*	Number of Injured Persons
2017	15	2

\*Remark: The incidents were mainly related to power interruption/voltage dip or minor fire. Incidents of third-party damage to electricity supply lines of the power companies are not included in the figures above.

The above-mentioned incidents did not involve any fatal case.