

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2006)

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 Security

Question:

The commercial operation of the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant in Guangdong Province was postponed last year due to the failure of component testing, which increases the risk of nuclear radiation to Hong Kong. In this regard, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. In the light of the nuclear risk that may be caused by the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant, will the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) increase the number of the “fully-trained and competent officers” to cope with it? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?
2. What was the expenditure for each inter-departmental drill on nuclear safety? Given that the provision for Programme (1) is 6.4% higher than that for last year, why does the EMSD have no plan to conduct any drills on nuclear safety in 2018?

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 16)

Reply:

1. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) provides technical advice on issues related to nuclear energy and the handling of nuclear emergencies to relevant bureaux at their requests. The EMSD's work in this respect is not affected by the operation of the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant, therefore there is no plan to adjust the relevant staff establishment at the moment.
2. The EMSD participated in the large-scale inter-departmental exercise based on the “Daya Bay Contingency Plan” co-ordinated by the Security Bureau in 2017. As the staff participating in the drill also handled other routine duties at the same time, we do not have a breakdown on the expenditure involved. The additional provision for 2018-19 is for the on-going work on nuclear safety, such as implementing and reviewing the departmental plan formulated for the “Daya Bay Contingency Plan”; arranging for staff on 24-hour standby

duty to handle nuclear emergencies; participating in communication drills on nuclear emergencies, relevant training, technical co-operation and exchange programmes, etc. In 2018, the EMSD will, as in the past, arrange for staff to participate in the monthly communication drills on nuclear emergencies, which include communication testing and computer system network testing, so as to ensure effective co-ordination and communication between the EMSD and other relevant bureaux/departments .

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