

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)202

(Question Serial No. 4097)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (Alfred W H SIT)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is estimated that the number of inspections of lifts and escalators in 2019 is 28 900, which is an increase of 13 491 inspections over the actual number in 2018, representing a rise of 16.5% in the percentage of existing lifts and escalators over the actual percentage in 2018. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Is this the main reason leading to a budget of over \$400 million (an increase of 153.8% over the actual expenditure in 2018-19) for Programme (2) in 2019-20?
2. It is explained in the footnotes that one of the reasons for the increase in the number of inspections is to dovetail with the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS). What is the estimated increase in the number of inspections resulting from the LIMSS? What are the manpower required and expenditure involved as a result of the increased number of inspections under the LIMSS?

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The increase in the budget provision for 2019-20 is mainly due to the need for funding two non-recurrent items: (i) provision of subsidy to lift modernisation works under the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS) and (ii) carrying out of a consultancy study on multi-storey vehicle maintenance workshop buildings. The estimated expenditure for these two items in 2019-20 is \$248.7 million and \$1 million respectively, accounting for an increase of 154% over the revised expenditure in 2018-19.
2. The estimated increase in the number of inspections resulting from the LIMSS is around 600 in 2019 and this figure will gradually increase to about 900 in the subsequent five years to dovetail with the number of lifts to be modernised under the LIMSS. A dedicated team comprising one Senior Engineer, one Engineer, two Inspectors, two Assistant Inspectors and one Clerical Assistant will be formed to oversee the implementation of the LIMSS including surveillance of lift modernisation works. The

estimated expenditure involved for setting up the dedicated team is around \$4.7 million in 2019-20.

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