

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2011)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent
Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (Alfred W H SIT)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Starting from the 2019-20 financial year, the Government launched the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS) with a provision of \$2.5 billion and engaged the Urban Renewal Authority as the administrator to subsidise building owners in need to modernise their aged lifts. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. The number of applications received and the number of lifts involved, the actual number of applications approved and the number of lifts involved, and the actual expenditure since the implementation of the LIMSS;
2. Will the Government further enhance the LIMSS in light of the implementation of the first round, including lowering the application threshold for subsidy, increasing the subsidy level, simplifying the relevant application procedures, etc.? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

1. In the first-round application of the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS), a total of 1 171 valid applications involving 4 971 lifts were received. Among them, 611 applications were approved, involving 1 404 lifts with higher priority. The expenditure of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department for implementing the LIMSS in 2019-20 is about \$249 million.
2. In view of the encouraging responses of the first-round application, the Government has earmarked in the 2020-21 Budget a sum of \$2 billion for the expansion of the LIMSS, thereby increasing the overall number of aged lifts to be subsidised from the original 5 000 to 8 000.

Under the principle of making good use of public financial resources, the LIMSS will first focus on pursuing lift modernisation in private residential or composite buildings with lower

average rateable values. Therefore, the average rateable value threshold will not be relaxed. The subsidy level will not be increased at this stage so as not to reduce the number of buildings being subsidised. Besides, the Urban Renewal Authority will review and streamline the application procedures from time to time, e.g. allowing flexibility for eligible applicants with difficulties to provide the required information after submission of applications so as to facilitate their participation in the LIMSS.

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