

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0165)

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 (PANG Yiu-hung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Since 2019, the Government, in collaboration with the Urban Renewal Authority, has launched the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS) to provide subsidy and professional support to building owners in need for modernising their aged lifts. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. What are the numbers of applications received and lifts involved, the actual numbers of applications approved and lifts involved, and the expenditure since the launch of the LIMSS?
2. Will the Government introduce enhancement measures, including lowering the application thresholds for subsidy, increasing the subsidy level, and streamlining the relevant application procedures? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. In the two rounds of application for the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS), a total of 2 035 valid applications involving 8 256 lifts were received. In view of the large number of buildings applying for the subsidies under the scheme as well as the capacity of the industry, the applications would be processed in batches according to their priorities. So far, a total of 1 646 applications have been approved, involving 5 094 lifts of higher priority. Up to the end of 2020-21, the expenditure of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department on the implementation of the LIMSS is about \$707 million, of which about \$637 million were granted through the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to subsidise building owners to carry out lift modernisation works.

2. Under the principle of making good use of public financial resources, the target beneficiaries of the LIMSS are those private residential or composite buildings with lower average rateable values. Currently, we have no plan to either relax the criteria on the

average rateable value thresholds or increase the subsidy level, so as not to reduce the number of buildings being subsidised. Besides, the URA will review and streamline the relevant workflow from time to time, e.g. allowing flexibility for eligible applicants with difficulties to supplement the required information afterwards so as to facilitate their implementation of lift modernisation works.

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