

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB051

(Question Serial No. 1375)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor Plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)
Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The estimate for acquisition and replacement of minor plant, vehicles and equipment for the current year is as high as \$207 million. However, the revised estimate for the previous year only accounts for 33.8% of the approved estimate.

1. Please explain the rather large discrepancy between the revised estimate and the approved estimate;
2. Please provide a comparison of the projects under the approved estimate of the current year and the previous year, and list the recurrent projects and new projects for these two years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. The estimated expenditure on acquisition and replacement of minor plant, vehicles and equipment is mainly used for the following three measures: (1) conducting retro-commissioning for a number of existing major government buildings; (2) implementing Solar Harvest to install solar energy generation systems at the premises of eligible non-government and non-profit-making schools as well as welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which receive recurrent subventions from the Social Welfare Department; and (3) implementing Green Schools 2.0 – Energy Smart to install energy-saving appliances for eligible primary and secondary schools. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, some premises (e.g. schools and welfare NGOs) with planned works had to be closed or suspended from operation, resulting in unforeseen project delays. Besides, the prices of the successful bids of some projects were lower than expected. Therefore, the estimate for the above-mentioned subhead needs to be revised in the light of the development of the pandemic and the prices of the successful bids.

2. The estimated expenditure for the above-mentioned subhead for 2021-22 is used for the same three measures, i.e. retro-commissioning, Solar Harvest and Green Schools 2.0 – Energy Smart. There is no new project in this respect.

- End -