

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1420)

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

Question:

In recent years, the number of generating facilities registration applications processed by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been increasing continuously. The estimated number for 2021-22 is as high as 3 000, which is 1 748 higher than the actual number in 2020-21. The EMSD explained that it was due to the increase in installation of solar energy generating facilities under the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme. Yet regarding the manpower responsible for electrical, gas and nuclear safety, there will be a net decrease of three posts in 2021-22, denoting a possible significant increase in the workload of each staff concerned. What upcoming manpower arrangement or work plan does the EMSD have to deal with the above-mentioned changes? For the safety of such installation, how could the EMSD ensure that the quality of future regular inspection will not be affected due to the rapid increase in generating facilities?

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

With the positive response to the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme and various facilitation measures for promoting the development of renewable energy, the number of solar energy generating facilities installed by the private sector and registration applications have increased correspondingly. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has previously deployed additional manpower to handle generating facilities registration and regulatory work related to the FiT Scheme. Regarding the net decrease of three posts under the Programme "Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety" in 2021-22, the scope of work of these posts is not related to electrical safety. In addition, the EMSD has completed a computer system improvement project in 2020 to expedite the processing and vetting of generating facilities registration applications. The EMSD will continue to closely monitor the situation of generating facilities registration with a view to continuously enhancing service efficiency and ensuring electrical safety.

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