

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)013

(Question Serial No. 0166)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for monitoring the safety performance of railway services of the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL). In recent years, there has been increasing public concern about the railway project works and the safety of daily train operations of MTRCL. In this connection, please advise:

1. whether EMSD has conducted comprehensive audits in these aspects, in particular on the asset management system and safety management system of MTRCL, to step up monitoring, and proposed major improvement measures in the past three years? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
2. whether EMSD has followed up on the implementation of the above-mentioned audits, monitoring and improvement measures? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. EMSD has been conducting comprehensive audits on MTRCL's asset management system and safety management system since mid-2019. EMSD has taken the initiative to systematically and thoroughly review the procedures and records of the aforementioned management systems, with a view to identifying abnormalities and potential problems at an early stage, thereby reducing potential safety hazards and enhancing railway safety.

The major improvement measures recommended by EMSD to MTRCL in the completed audits include:

- (a) Enhancing the maintenance methodology, deploying resources to replace/upgrade aging assets in time, and clearing deferred maintenance tasks;

- (b) Enhancing internal governance to step up monitoring of the maintenance work and work progress;
 - (c) Strengthening resource allocation, especially on the deployment of manpower to the maintenance of safety critical equipment; and
 - (d) Leveraging new technologies and adopting real-time monitoring tools for operation condition monitoring and predictive maintenance.
2. Upon the completion of each comprehensive audit, EMSD directly informs MTRCL's senior management of the audit findings and recommendations. EMSD also monitors the progress of MTRCL's follow-up actions to ensure continuous improvement in railway safety. Major improvements in progress include:
- (a) Deploying additional manpower and resources to clear the backlog of deferred maintenance works;
 - (b) Adopting real-time dynamic measurement of rail track gauge in the whole MTR railway network in phases, so as to give timely alarm of rail track conditions; and
 - (c) Enhancing the governance of MTRCL in railway safety with the establishment of a new independent audit unit reporting to MTRCL's senior management to audit the asset management of major railway systems.

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