

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department      Subhead:

Programme : (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

For the railway regulation, please advise:

- (a) how many staff in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) are responsible for the regulation of Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRCL) operational performance at present? What are the regulation standards of these staff ?
- (b) whether any staff have been sent for overseas duty visit in respect of the railway regulatory regime over the past five years (i.e. 2006-07 to 2010-11); and if so, what are the details, results and respective expenditure for each activity?
- (c) Is there any statistical analysis conducted on service delay and the associated societal cost arising from railway incidents over the past five years (i.e. 2006-07 to 2010-11); and if so, what are the details; and if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply :

- (a) At present, there are nine professional grade staff in the Railways Branch of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to perform regulatory functions of railway safety.

EMSD monitors the safety of the railway systems and ensures that the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) complies with all safety requirements in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the railway systems. MTRCL has to maintain a safety management system and a maintenance management system which are in line with international standards. For railway safety incidents, EMSD examines investigation reports and monitors whether the incidents have become a trend as well as ensures that MTRCL implements improvement measures as appropriate.

- (b) Since the establishment of the Railways Branch in EMSD in 2008, EMSD regularly sent staff to go abroad for duty visits and trainings with respect to the regulatory framework and safety standards of overseas railway operators. During the period from 2008 to 2010, a total of ten officers had visited the railway regulators and corporations in Europe, China, Taipei, Bangkok and Singapore with a view to keeping abreast of the development of railway safety regulatory framework and safety standards and to sharing experience and knowledge on railway safety management. The average cost per visit per person is about \$33,000.
- (c) EMSD is responsible for the safety of the railway systems and does not have statistical data on service delays arising from the railway incidents.

Signature 

Name in block letters CHAN Hung Cheung, Stephen

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 18 March 2011