

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB173

Question Serial No.

2246

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the work to ensure the enforcement of safety standards for electricity and gas, please advise this Committee:

- (a) In each of the past five years, the manpower and expenditure so involved as well as the work details;
- (b) As per the information provided by the Government, should there be any inappropriate work procedures, the government department concerned will advise the LPG supply companies to implement improvement measures or follow up with these companies in accordance with the legislation or relevant regulations. Please advise:
 - (i) What are the numbers of such cases in each of the past five years? Please list the figures by year and gas supply company.
 - (ii) The details of the said improvement measures, legislation or relevant regulations;
- (c) Will the Administration regulate by legislation the work procedures of LPG supply companies, including unloading of LPG from tankers, storage at terminals (such as water draining operations), delivery by road tankers and storage at filling stations? If yes, what are the work details, timetable, manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

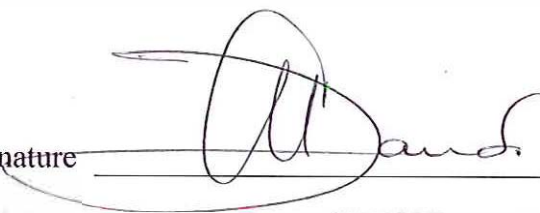
- (a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for the administration and enforcement of electricity and gas safety under the Electricity Ordinance, Cap. 406 and the Gas Safety Ordinance, Cap. 51. These responsibilities are undertaken respectively by the Electricity Legislation Division and Gas Standards Office of the EMSD, which currently have a staff strength of 150 in total. Duties of these divisions include registration of trade practitioners, inspection of electrical and gas installations and appliances, inspection and approval of gas installations, investigations into electrical and gas incidents, initiation of prosecution and disciplinary actions against non-compliant cases, and promotion of electrical and gas safety to the public and trade. The total recurrent expenditure for these divisions is about \$89 million a year.

(b) & (c)

All Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supply companies have developed internal work procedures, which guide the operations on receipt of LPG from tankers, storage at terminals (such as water draining), delivery by road tankers and storage at filling stations. EMSD has been conducting regular site inspections and audits to ensure that relevant procedures are complied with. Where necessary, advisory letters are issued to gas supply companies. The number of such letters issued in the past five years are set out below-

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of advisory letters issued</u>
2007 - 2009	0
2010	1
2011	4

The above cases were related to non-compliance with in-house procedures or conditions of registration, and have been followed up properly by the gas supply companies concerned. The existing monitoring mechanism is considered effective in ensuring the quality of LPG and its normal supply.

Signature 

Name in block letters CHAN Fan

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 29 February 2012