

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

THB(T)026

Question Serial No.

0654

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide the details and reasons why the actual number of inspections on railway facilities/systems in 2011 is greater than those in 2010? What are the staff and expenditure involved? Besides, please provide details and reasons why the estimated number of inspections in 2012 is less; and what are the corresponding staff and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

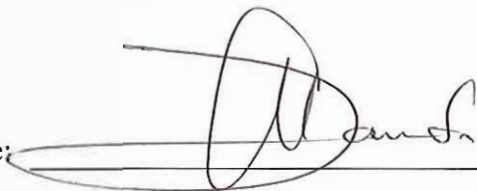
Reply:

More inspections were carried out in 2011 than in 2010 as a result of the need for more on-site investigations to follow up on the service disruption incident at Yau Ma Tei Station in October 2010 and the rail breakage incidents in early 2011. The additional inspections were carried out by existing staff of the Railways Branch and no additional resources and expenditure were incurred.

The Railways Branch is headed by one Assistant Director, supported by four Senior Engineers and four Engineers/Assistant Engineers in monitoring safety of the existing railway network. The total staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary, was \$8.239 million in 2011-12.

As the improvement measures have been substantially completed by the MTR Corporation Limited for the said incidents in 2010-11, the number of inspections for 2012 is anticipated to resume normal (i.e. the level of 2010). Staff and expenditure involved for inspection in 2012 therefore remain the same as in 2011.

Signature: _____



Name in block letters: _____

CHAN Fan

Post Title: _____

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: _____

28 February 2012