

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4918)

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 (CHAN Fan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 202 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 176):

Regarding the drills on nuclear power safety conducted by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, please advise:

- a) the details of the drills, expenditure and manpower involved, number of participants, participation and attendance rates of accountable officers and the effectiveness in each of the past five years;
- b) the HKSAR Government had once planned to increase the proportion of nuclear power to 50% in the energy fuel mix of Hong Kong, but the number of drills conducted by the department in the last two years (Year 2012 & 2013) had decreased, why?
- c) Previously, CLP Power had increased the nuclear power purchase from Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station, the proportion of nuclear power in the fuel mix of Hong Kong had also increased. However, the estimated number of drills to be taken by the department in 2014 is lower than that in 2012, why? Has it been planned for adjustment, and what are the details and the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- a) During the past five years, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been participating in the monthly communication drills on nuclear emergency incidents, which include communication testing and computer system network testing. The numbers of EMSD officers taking part in these testing exercises were three and one respectively. Apart from the above regular drills, EMSD had also taken part in the inter-departmental drill arranged in conjunction with the Hong Kong Observatory in 2010. The total number of EMSD officers participating in this drill was five. In addition, large-scale inter-departmental exercises based on the Daya Bay Contingency Plan (DBCP) and the overall Emergency Response System are conducted in a cycle of every 3 to 5 years. EMSD had participated in the inter-departmental DBCP Exercise co-ordinated by Security Bureau in 2012. The total number of EMSD officers taking part in this exercise was 15. These drills and exercises enable the participating staff to familiarise themselves with the related work of the contingency plan. As the officers participating in the drills are also handling other duties at the same time, we do not have a breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.
- b) & c) Apart from the regular drills every year, EMSD also participated in the DBCP Exercise co-ordinated by Security Bureau in 2012. Therefore, the number of drills in 2012 was higher than that of 2013 and 2014. As our work relating to nuclear power safety and emergency incident responses has not been affected by the change in the portion of nuclear power in the fuel mix of Hong Kong, there is no plan to adjust the number of drills to be conducted at the moment.