

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)020****(Question Serial No. 1624)**

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 (CHAN Fan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question (Member Question No. 37):

With respect to the railway incidents investigated under the Programme, please advise this Committee if any serious incidents have been found in 2012 and 2013. If so, please advise the details and whether there is any recommendation to the Transport and Housing Bureau for follow-up action?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

In accordance with the Mass Transit Railway Regulations (Cap. 556A) (the Regulations), the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) has to notify the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) of any incident that has occurred at any part of the entire railway premises which has a direct bearing on the safe operation of the railway. In 2012 and 2013, the total numbers of these incidents reported to the EMSD are 1 912 and 1 526 respectively.

Of the above incidents, two reportable accidents under Regulation 2 of the Regulations^{Note} occurred on 14 June 2012 and 17 May 2013. Details are as follows:

- (1) On 14 June 2012, a Light Rail vehicle (LRV) was hit from behind by another one near the Hung Shui Kiu stop. 33 passengers were injured. Subsequently, the MTRCL has strengthened the training of LRV captains accordingly.

^{Note} Under Regulation 2, an accident is notifiable if it occurs on the railway and –

- (a) as a result thereof any person dies or suffers serious injury; or
- (b) it involves a train (i) colliding with, or striking against, another train or any other object; or (ii) leaving the rails, and doing so either on a line used for the carriage of passengers or goods or both passengers and goods, or in circumstances where the normal operation of such a line is affected.

- (2) On 17 May 2013, a LRV derailed when making a left turn enroute from the Hang Mei Tsuen stop to the Tong Fong Tsuen stop. 81 passengers were injured. Subsequently, the MTRCL has provided more frequent reminders to LRV captains on the importance of safe driving. The MTRCL has also stepped up spot-checks on the speed of LRVs. In addition, the MTRCL has conducted pilot test of installing fixed speed cameras at appropriate locations. Legal proceedings against the concerned LRV captain are underway.

The Transport and Housing Bureau has been apprised by the EMSD and the Transport Department of details of these accidents and of follow-up actions required and taken.