

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)226****(Question Serial No. 4186)**

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. 205):

Please provide detailed information on the expenditure for investigation of railway incidents by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in the past five years. Please specify the estimated expenditure for investigation of railway incidents by the EMSD in the year 2014-15. Please advise the specific definition of "Incident which has Direct Impact on Safe Operation of Railway".

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The EMSD investigates railway incidents concerning safety, examines incident investigation reports submitted by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL), follows up with the MTRCL to identify cause of the incidents, and monitors the MTRCL in implementing appropriate improvement measures to prevent recurrence.

The numbers of professional/technical staff and the corresponding expenditure for regulating safety of the railways are set out below:

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
No. of staff	9	9	11	13	15
Expenditure (\$ million)	7.577	7.690	9.896	11.587	13.699

The number of staff involved and the corresponding expenditure for regulating safety of the railways in 2014-15 will remain the same as in 2013-14. The duties of these staff cover all aspects of work requires of ensuring railway safety. Investigation into incidents is amongst such duties. There is no statistical breakdown on resources spent on investigation into incidents.

Under the Mass Transit Railway Regulations (Cap. 556A) (the Regulations), railway incidents are classified into "accidents" and "occurrences", as follows:

- (a) Accidents^{Note} that occurred on the railway;
- (b) Apart from accidents, the Schedule to the Regulations sets out notifiable occurrences, which cover seven types of occurrences "directly affecting persons" and 12 types of occurrences "affecting railway premises, plant and equipment". In general, these are occurrences that cause or could cause injury, or that endanger or could endanger the safe operation of railway.

^{Note} Under Regulation 2 of the Regulations, an accident is notifiable if it occurs on a part of the railway which has commenced operation for public use 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 in circumstances where the normal operation of such a line is affected.