

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)227

(Question Serial No. 5102)

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. 171):

In the programme, with respect to the work related to railway system / facility inspection and investigated incident, please advise this Committee on:

- (1) With respect to the 140 inspections on railway system / facility in the year 2013-14, is there any warning or improvement instruction issued to the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)? If so, what are the number of instructions and the content?
- (2) With respect to the 60 investigated railway incidents in the year 2013-14, is there any warning or improvement instruction issued to the MTRCL? If so, what are the number of instructions and the content? Is there any request to the Transport and Housing Bureau to punish the MTRCL pursuant to the Mass Transit Railway Ordinance (Cap. 556) regarding the incidents? If so, what are the details?
- (3) In view of the recent repeated incidents in the past half year, is there any plan to carry out an independent investigation on MTRCL's system in 2014-15? If so, what are the details and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- (1) and (2) In 2013, the Railways Branch (RB) of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) issued a total of 20 recommendations to the MTRCL requiring them to carry out improvements, mainly on station equipment, rail tracks, tunnels, trains and traction power systems. The MTRCL has accepted and followed up on all these recommendations. There has not been any incident requiring punishment of the MTRCL by the EMSD under the Mass Transit Railway Ordinance.

- (3) With regard to the insulator breakage incidents on 22 January 2014 on Light Rail, and 9 and 18 February 2014 on East Rail Line, the MTRCL has engaged an independent overhead line expert from overseas to carry out a comprehensive review on its overhead line system. The EMSD will monitor the progress of the MTRCL's external expert review, and enlist the assistance of an independent expert consultant to conduct a review on the findings of the MTRCL's expert review. In the light of the findings of the EMSD's independent expert, the Government will decide whether or not there is a need to extend the scope of the review to cover other parts of the MTR network, and if so, the purpose would be to identify possible systemic defects or problems in other parts of the MTR network. The expenditure of the EMSD's independent expert review is estimated to be about \$0.6 million.