Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)124

Question Serial No.

2537

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical

Subhead (No. & title):

Services Department

<u>Programme</u>: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Development

Question:

The provision under Programme (2) is \$161,500,000, which is substantially increased by \$91,700,000 (131.4%) as compared to that of last year. The Administration explained that this is because of the increased provision for modernising existing lifts of government bureaux and departments. Would the Administration please advise:

- (a) Why the provision is only targeted at modernising existing lifts of government bureaux and departments? What are the details and work programme of these modernisation works?
- (b) Whether the above modernisation works involve the creation of new posts? If yes, what are these posts.
- (c) The matters requiring special attention in 2013-14 include the continued step-up of inspection and enforcement actions for lifts and escalators, and publicity work for the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance. Please advise the details and expenditure involved in this respect.

Asked by: Hon. POON Siu-ping

Reply:

(a) The existing lifts of government bureaux and departments were commissioned at different times in compliance with the standards prevailing at the time of installation. Many of the existing lifts are not yet up to the current design standard.

The modernisation works will upgrade the existing lifts to the current standard by installing one or more of the following additional safety features:-

- (i) Double brake system;
- (ii) Unintended car movement protection device;
- (iii) Ascending car overspeed protection device;

- (iv) Advanced car door mechanical lock and door safety edge;
- (v) Intercom and closed circuit television system; and
- (vi) Obstruction switch to protect suspension rope.

In 2013-14, we target to modernise about 180 existing lifts of government bureaux and departments.

Modernisation of existing lifts of government bureaux and departments will not only demonstrate government's commitment on lift safety, but also set a good example for other public organisations and the private sector to follow.

- (b) The modernisation works will not involve the creation of any new posts in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD).
- (c) The main provisions of the new Lift and Escalators Ordinance (the Ordinance) were put into operation on 17 December 2012. EMSD will step up inspection based on a risk-based approach with higher priority accorded to the lifts maintained by contractors with poor performance, have long years of service or are of those models that have frequent breakdowns.

In addition, EMSD will continue taking appropriate enforcement actions for non-compliances or disciplinary offences found in the course of inspections, including initiating prosecutions or requesting for setting up disciplinary boards to conduct disciplinary hearings against registered persons.

Furthermore, EMSD will continue stepping-up publicity work with a view to raising the public's awareness of lift safety and drawing their attention to the factors that should be considered when selecting contractors. The publicity work will include organising briefing sessions for responsible persons of lifts and escalators and other stakeholders; conducting roving exhibitions and visits to different districts; disseminating promotional materials and videos; and broadcasting TV and radio APIs.

The estimated expenditure for enforcing and publicising the Ordinance in 2013-14 is \$31.5 million.

Name in block letters:	CHAN Fan
	Director of Electrical and
Post Title:	Mechanical Services
Date:	2.4.2013