

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)040

(Question Serial No. 0212)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)
(696) Energy saving projects in government buildings (block vote)

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

There are significant changes in the figures of block votes under the Capital Account of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) for 2026-27. The estimate for Subhead 661 decreases substantially by 67.7% to \$10 million when compared with the revised estimate for the previous year. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the reasons for the substantial decrease in the provision for Subhead 661? After the completion of the "Retro-commissioning for Government Buildings" and "Green Welfare NGOs" programmes, how will the EMSD sustain its efforts to promote carbon reduction in existing buildings?

2. The provision for Subhead 696 "Energy saving projects in government buildings" will decrease by 11.9% to \$96.88 million in 2026-27, mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for the energy saving projects in government buildings. Please explain the reasons for the decreased cash flow requirement. Will the Government's set target of reducing the energy consumption of buildings by 6% in 2028-29 be affected?

Asked by: Hon LAMPORT Jonathan Stuart (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. The provision of \$10 million for Subhead 661 "Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)" in 2026-27 represents a decrease of \$21 million (67.7%) against the revised estimate for 2025-26. This is mainly due to the completion of the "Retro-commissioning for Government Buildings" programme in March 2026 and the completion of the majority of energy-saving retrofit works under the "Green Welfare NGOs" programme in 2025-26. With the amended Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance coming into full effect in September 2026, about 400 government buildings will be legally required to conduct energy audits every 5 years to review their building services installations and energy use for identifying energy-saving opportunities including retro-commissioning. They are also

required to disclose technical information on energy efficiency in the audit reports to enhance data transparency. In addition, the Community Energy Saving Funds established by the 2 power companies under the Scheme of Control Agreements offer programmes to provide non-profit social welfare organisations and schools with funding for one-stop energy efficiency improvements, succeeding the “Green Welfare NGOs” programme which is approaching completion. We will discuss with the 2 power companies to continuously review and enhance various subsidy schemes, and strengthen collaboration with the industry to jointly explore innovative energy-saving solutions.

2. The estimated provision of \$96.89 million for Subhead 696 “Energy saving projects in government buildings (block vote)” in 2026-27 represents a decrease of \$13.11 million (11.9%) against the revised estimate for 2025-26. This is mainly because some projects have already been commenced ahead of schedule in 2025-26. The Government initially projected that the overall energy performance of government buildings and facilities would improve by over 6% in 2024-25 as compared with the 2018-19 baseline. The above target was achieved in 2023-24, one year ahead of schedule. As at 2024-25, the overall energy performance of government buildings and facilities improved by 7.7%.

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