

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)083****(Question Serial No. 0412)**Head: (39) Drainage Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Sewage ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (TONG Ka Hung, Edwin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion:

Regarding the feasibility study on the relocation of Sham Tseng Sewage Treatment Works to caverns:

1. please advise the current progress and anticipated date of completion;
2. what are the difficulties revealed in the technical assessment relating to the size of caverns, construction methods, geological considerations, sewage treatment methods, etc.?
3. has the cost of the relocation works been estimated preliminarily for cost effectiveness? If yes, please advise the details;
4. as the new site selected by the Government is adjacent to residential areas, has the Government assessed the impact of blasting on the residents? If yes, please advise the details. If not, what are the reasons? and
5. will the Government conduct public consultation again for the relocation project? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 19)Reply:

According to Rule 49 of the Finance Committee Procedures, special meetings of the Finance Committee are convened to examine the annual Estimates of Expenditure prepared by the Government in support of the Appropriation Bill.

*Expenditure charged to the Capital Works Reserve Fund does **not** form part of the Appropriation Bill. As such, questions relating to expenditure under the Fund are **not** relevant to the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure or the Appropriation Bill.*

1. The Drainage Services Department (DSD) has completed the technical assessment of relocating Sham Tseng Sewage Treatment Works to caverns, and is striving to conclude the project's feasibility study this year.
- 2&4. Findings from the technical assessment show no insurmountable difficulties regarding the size of caverns, construction methods, geological considerations,

sewage treatment methods etc. Besides, the extent of the vibrations in nearby residential areas and facilities caused by blasting operations inside the caverns will fall within relevant statutory limits.

- 3&5. The feasibility study, which includes a preliminary cost estimation and cost-effectiveness assessment for the relocation works, is underway. Upon establishing the project's feasibility and cost-effectiveness, DSD will proceed to the investigation and design stage of the project, during which the public will be consulted.

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