

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB044

(Question Serial No. 1572)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (TONG Ka Hung, Edwin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The duties of the Drainage Services Department include checking of sewerage submissions and connections in Hong Kong. In the past few years, there were a number of cases in which the foul water pipes of some private buildings have been misconnected to the stormwater drainage system (foul water pipe misconnection) in Hong Kong. In this regard, please advise this Committee:

1. of the number of complaints regarding foul water pipe misconnection cases in the territory, including Hung Hom, over the past three years; of these, the number of resolved cases and unresolved cases;
2. of the Government's expenditure on the maintenance cases of ageing, blocked and damaged foul water pipes of buildings over the past three years;
3. how the Government ensures that the number of foul water pipe misconnection will be minimized;
4. of the number of unsewered areas and villages in Hong Kong at present; and the progress of provision of sewerage facilities or dry weather flow interceptors for the related areas.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 41)

Reply:

1. Over the past three years, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) received a total of 32 complaints referred by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and Buildings Department (BD) concerning foul water pipe misconnection in which the foul water pipes of some private buildings have been misconnected to the stormwater drainage system. Of these, 16 cases have been resolved and DSD is following up on the remaining cases with related departments.
2. Maintenance works of foul water pipes within private buildings have to be arranged by building owners while rectification of the foul water pipe misconnection outside private buildings and rehabilitation of public sewers are undertaken by DSD. The expenditure in this area over the past three years was \$400 million.

3. Unauthorised alteration to the drainage systems within private buildings with foul water discharging into the buildings' stormwater pipes contravenes the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) and may be subject to enforcement actions by BD including the issue of statutory removal orders under section 24 of the Ordinance. Rectification works within private buildings are to be carried out by the owners in question. Besides, if pollution problems, such as existing pipe misconnection, are found, EPD and BD will take measures jointly under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance and Buildings Ordinance to tackle the illegal connection and discharge cases as soon as possible.
4. The Government is implementing a village sewerage programme. As at December 2017, sewerage works at 221 villages were completed under this programme while those at about 315 villages are being implemented or have been included in the public works. Sewerage works at about 170 villages have not been included in this programme but are still under preliminary planning while works at about 335 villages have not been planned. Besides, the Government has installed 84 dry weather flow interceptors in each district in the New Territories.

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