

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 704 – Drainage

Subhead: 4276DS

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: As indicated in Estimates for the year ending 31 March 2010, the revised estimate for 4276DS for 2008-09 is \$110,952,000, as against \$54,452,000 as indicated in Estimates for the year ending 31 March 2009. Please provide reasons for the significant increase. Will the project be expedited because of the increased provision?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

Contracts under 4276DS “Sha Tin sewage treatment works, stage 3 extension” were awarded in phases, and the last one was awarded only in mid 2008. The increase in the estimated spending for 4276DS in 2008-09, from the original estimate of \$54,452,000 to the revised estimate of \$110,952,000, is mainly due to increase in construction costs resulting in higher than expected tender prices returned in mid 2008 and contract payments, and faster than anticipated progress of part of the works resulting in earlier than expected contract payments.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ K K LAU

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2009