

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

ENB040

Question Serial No.

0530

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

At present, direct connection of sewers to drains is still common in old tenement buildings in many districts like Tsuen Wan, thus giving rise to direct discharge of untreated sewage into the Hong Kong waters. In this connection, will the Government advise the Committee on the expenditure incurred by the government on rectifying expedient connections at source in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11)? What is the estimated expenditure on rectifying expedient connections at source for 2011-12? Has the Administration got measures to fully resolve expedient connections in old tenement buildings within a short time?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The rectification of expedient connections between the sewage terminal manholes of the private buildings and the public stormwater drainage manholes is an integral part of general maintenance operation of Drainage Services Department and no separate cost account is kept for expenses specifically on their rectification works.

Unauthorized 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 Buildings Department including the issue of statutory removal orders under section 24 of the Ordinance. The rectification works are to be carried out by the owners of the private buildings in question. The Environmental Protection Department will also step up enforcement actions jointly with the Buildings Department to tackle the illegal connection and discharge cases, so as to rectify the misconnections of private buildings as soon as possible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 15 March 2011