

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)105

Question Serial No.

1394

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 704 – Drainage

Subhead :

Programme : Public Works Programme

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question : Regarding the latest estimates by Administration about approved projects under Head 704, please provide a breakdown of the following information :

- a) projects which will be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion date as stated in the respective Public Works Subcommittee paper;
- b) projects which will be completed at a lower cost than the approved amount; and
- c) projects which will be completed at a higher cost than the approved amount.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

On present projection, 16 on-going projects in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 704 will be completed by the scheduled completion dates as stated in the respective Finance Committee (FC) papers. There may be unforeseeable risks such as inclement weather, ground conditions, site constraints, etc. which may affect project progress. Occasionally, where site conditions and weather conditions, etc. are more favourable than expected, projects may be completed earlier than the original scheduled completion dates. On the other hand, we will continue to make our best efforts to ensure the timely completion of the projects. As circumstances may change during the construction stage, we will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these on-going projects will be completed earlier than the scheduled completion date upon project completion.

For those approved projects listed in the 2011-12 Draft Estimates of Head 704 and which are still on-going, all of them are within the latest Approved Project Estimates (APE) approved by FC on present projection. Prior approval must be sought from FC or under the delegated power under the established mechanism, if any of the projects is anticipated to

exceed the APE. While some returned tenders of the projects are lower than the sum allowed in the APE, we need to cater for unforeseeable risks relating to ground conditions, site constraints, etc., which may materialise in the construction process. We will be in a better position to confirm whether any of these approved projects is completed at a lower cost than the APE upon project completion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 21 March 2011