

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

ENB044

Question Serial No.

3824

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In Hong Kong, improper connection of sewers to drains in many old tenement buildings has given rise to direct discharge of sewage into the harbour and thus pollution. In this connection, will the Department inform this Committee:

- (a) whether the Department has ever estimated the approximate number of old tenement buildings with such problems in the territory; and
- (b) of the expenditures on stepping up inspection and improvement works in the coming 3 years (2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14), and whether such expenditures have increased as compared with those in the past 3 years (2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11)?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

We do not have comprehensive information on the number of old tenement buildings involving improper connection of sewers to drains. Based on recent surveys and studies conducted by other government departments on some districts, there are 46 cases in the Tsuen Wan district, and some 200 cases in the Yau Tsim Mong and Sham Shui Po districts.

The Government would take action to rectify misconnections from buildings and illegal discharges. As the action forms part of the routine operations that cover a wide range of activities, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the expenses specifically on tackling misconnections or illegal discharges.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 15 March 2011