

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

**DEVB(W)109**

Question Serial No.

1433

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department    Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* for 2012-13, the Departmental Expenses for 'light and power' is revised as \$243,300,000, which is higher than the original estimated expenses of \$234,423,000; and the estimated expenses is further increased to \$254,040,000 for 2013-14. Please inform this Committee if the Department has reviewed the reasons for the increase in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Has the Administration taken any energy saving measures to reduce the expenses? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The change of the Departmental Expenses for 'light and power' in 2012-13 was mainly due to the increase in the tariff rates for The Hongkong Electric Company, Limited (HEC) and CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLPP) by 6.3% and 4.9% on average respectively with effect from 1 January 2012. Similarly for 2013-14, HEC and CLPP have increased their tariff rates by 2.9% and 5.9% on average with effect from 1 January 2013. Furthermore, the increase has also taken into account the operation of new facilities, such as the new deodourizers at Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (STW) to minimize odour impacts to the environment.

In order to reduce the expenses, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) will continue to adopt energy saving measures in various DSD facilities. The major energy saving measures include the following:-

- (a) Utilisation of biogas produced during the sludge treatment process to generate electricity and heat by installation of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Generators at Tai Po STW and Shek Wu Hui STW;
- (b) Reduction of the surplus activated sludge produced in secondary sewage treatment process to save electricity requirements for its subsequent treatment

and improvement on the sludge digestion process at Shatin STW; and

- (c) Efficiency improvement of the dewatering facilities at Stonecutters Island STW.

With the implementation of various energy saving measures, around \$3.6 million were saved in 2012.

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Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 2 April 2013