

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB060****(Question Serial No. 4291)**

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum-wah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question (Member Question No. 67):

According to Programme 3, the Administration will continue to operate and maintain sewer systems and sewage treatment facilities in a cost-effective manner, paying particular attention to the odour issue in the coming year. Please advise:

1. What is the progress of maintenance of sewer systems and sewage treatment facilities this year? Please advise on the locations, expenditures and manpower involved. Has the odour issue been improved? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? What are the numbers of complaints in relation to the odour issue of sewer systems and sewage treatment facilities received by the Administration over the past three years? Has the Administration identified any odour blackspots of sewer systems and sewage treatment facilities based on these complaints? If yes, what are the details? Will the Administration take actions against them in particular?
2. The Administration will continue to operate and maintain sewer systems and sewage treatment facilities in the coming year. Please advise on the details, locations, manpower and expenditures involved.

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

1. Every year the Drainage Services Department (DSD) carry out regular inspection and maintenance works for sewerage systems and sewage treatment facilities in various districts. The work progress of this year is on schedule. The expenditure was \$614 million and 608 staff were involved. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the numbers of complaints received by DSD in relation to the odour of sewerage systems and sewage treatment facilities were 11, 3 and 5 respectively.

DSD has adopted various effective measures to reduce the odour nuisance from the sewage. These measures include:

- (a) dosing of chemicals like calcium nitrate, ferric chloride and other deodourising agents to control the generation of odour from sewage;
- (b) covering up of channels and sewage treatment facilities which are likely to emit odour;
- (c) installing deodourisation systems like activated carbon system, chemical scrubbers and biofilters at appropriate locations; and
- (d) cleansing of sewer systems regularly.

These measures, together with frequent and close monitoring, have helped alleviate the odour issue. The number of odour complaints has shown a declining trend in recent years.

2. DSD will continue to effectively deploy resources to carry out regular inspection and maintenance works for sewerage systems and sewage treatment facilities in various districts, in order to ensure the proper operation of existing sewage collection, treatment and disposal facilities. It is expected the manpower and expenditure involved in the coming year will be similar to that of this year.