

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)221

(Question Serial No. 7182)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (TONG Ka Hung, Edwin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- A: Regarding the relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works, what are the completion percentage of the investigation and the findings of the feasibility study? If the project is feasible, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? When will it commence? If not, what are the reasons?
- B: Has the Government considered the land use if the sewage treatment works is relocated to caverns? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Alvin YEUNG Ngok-kiu (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

According to Rule 49 of the Finance Committee Procedures, special meetings of the Finance Committee are convened to examine the annual Estimates of Expenditure prepared by the Government in support of the Appropriation Bill.

Expenditure charged to the Capital Works Reserve Fund do **not** form part of the Appropriation Bill. As such, questions relating to expenditure under the Fund are **not** relevant to the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure or the Appropriation Bill.

- A. We completed a detailed feasibility study for the relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns at the end of 2013 and the results showed that the relocation proposal was technically feasible and financially viable. We commenced the investigation and design phase of the project in September 2014. A number of technical assessments including environmental impact assessment, traffic impact assessment and blasting assessment have been substantially completed, while the ground investigation and design of the rock caverns and treatment processes are in progress. The investigation and design work are expected to be completed in stages by the end of 2022 as scheduled. Subject to the availability of funds, we plan to commence cavern construction works as early as possible after completion of the

cavern design near the end of 2017.

The investigation and design work are funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund **Head 704 Subhead 4407DS** with an Approved Project Estimate of \$637.7 million in money-of-the-day prices. The work is managed by one Chief Engineer, one Senior Engineer and four Engineers on a part-time basis with the assistance of three time-limited professional-rank staff.

- B. A preliminary planning review conducted during the feasibility study of the project indicated that after relocation of the existing Sha Tin sewage treatment works, the vacated site could be used for residential development, commercial development, and/or construction of community facilities. Land-use planning of the site will be carried out at an appropriate time before the completion of the construction project to take account of the latest needs of the community at the time.

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