

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)037

(Question Serial No. 0408)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (MOK Wing-cheong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government has been actively taking forward the construction of village sewerage systems to improve rural environmental hygiene conditions and enhance the living quality. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the estimated expenditure on the construction of village sewerage systems in 2026-27; the rate of change as compared with the revised estimate for 2025-26; and the estimated expenditures on such works in each district in 2026-27, with a breakdown by District Council district;
2. of the numbers of villages expected to have sewerage systems completed and covered in 2026-27, with a breakdown by District Council district; and the number of households expected to be connected to public sewers;
3. of the actual expenditures on the construction of village sewerage systems, the numbers of villages covered, and the numbers of households connected in each of the past 3 financial years (from 2023-24 to 2025-26), with a breakdown by District Council district;
4. of the number of villages in each district yet to be constructed with sewerage systems and the estimated number of households concerned as at end-February 2026, with a breakdown by District Council district; and the expected completion date of all village sewerage works in various districts; and
5. whether the Drainage Services Department has set aside resources in 2026-27 for conducting feasibility studies on sewage treatment solutions (such as small sewage treatment facilities or the type of sewage treatment system in private housing estates) for remote villages or villages with complex terrain; if yes, of the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1.

A comparison of the estimated expenditures on village sewerage projects in 2025-26 and 2026-27 is set out as follows:

Year	2025-26 (Revised estimate)	2026-27 (Estimate)	Rate of change
Expenditure (\$ million)	708.4	586.0	-122.4 (-17.3%)

In 2026-27, the estimated expenditures on village sewerage projects, with a breakdown by District Council district, are as follows:

District	2026-27 Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Tsuen Wan	50.7
Tuen Mun	6.5
Yuen Long	8.5
North	94.9
Tai Po	8.6
Sai Kung	178.6
Sha Tin	0.9
Kwai Tsing	10.1
Islands	227.2
Total	586.0

Note: No village sewerage projects are implemented for the Central and Western, Wan Chai, Eastern, Southern, Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin and Kwun Tong Districts.

2.

In 2026-27, the numbers of villages expected to have sewerage projects completed and the projected population served, with a breakdown by District Council district, are as follows:

District	No. of villages expected to have village sewerage projects completed in 2026-27	Projected population served (Approximate)
Sai Kung	7	8 900
Islands	12	3 800
Total	19	12 700

3.

In the past three financial years, the actual expenditures and revised estimates for village sewerage projects, with a breakdown by District Council district, are as follows:

District	2023-24 Actual expenditure (\$ million)	2024-25 Actual expenditure (\$ million)	2025-26 Revised estimate (\$ million)
Kwun Tong	35.1	6.3	0.4
Tsuen Wan	20.7	34.9	41.0
Tuen Mun	127.9	33.8	15.0
Yuen Long	1.4	2.0	0.9
North	61.8	127.9	105.1
Tai Po	156.6	50.4	14.3
Sai Kung	329.1	209.9	138.9
Sha Tin	19.4	23.7	4.0
Kwai Tsing	13.3	22.3	16.9
Islands	302.4	268.6	371.9
Total	1,067.7	779.8	708.4

Note: No village sewerage projects are implemented for the Central and Western, Wan Chai, Eastern, Southern, Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin Districts.

In the past three financial years (as at December 2025), the numbers of villages with village sewerage projects completed and the population served are as follows:

District	No. of villages with village sewerage projects completed in the past three financial years (as at December 2025)	Population served (Approximate)
Kwun Tong	4	3 200
Tsuen Wan	2	4 200
Tuen Mun	4	6 800
Yuen Long	1	300
North	5	7 300
Tai Po	6	5 000
Sai Kung	11	5 500
Sha Tin	2	1 000
Kwai Tsing	1	3 700
Islands	6	2 600
Total	42	39 600

4. & 5.

The Government has all along been allocating resources with a view to taking forward the Village Sewerage Programme (the Programme). As at December 2025, the Programme has covered 586 villages, of which the sewerage systems for 307 villages with relatively large de jure populations and in close proximity to the public sewerage network have been completed, serving around 230 000 people. In addition, the relevant construction works in another 33 villages are currently in progress. When taking forward village sewerage projects, the Government will holistically take into account various factors, including the level of improvement to the environment by the project, density of village population, preference of residents, technical feasibility, cost effectiveness and financial position, etc. and will initiate planning for relevant sewerage works at an opportune time to ensure the prudent use of resources.

The implementation of village sewerage projects is a lengthy process. Pre-construction work involves various procedures, including planning, feasibility study, detailed design, public consultation, gazettal and land resumption, etc. In addition, due to the intertwined land ownership of some villages, it is necessary to have thorough communication and the attainment of consensus with relevant stakeholders on the sewerage proposals and land resumption arrangements, before the projects can be taken forward in a progressive manner. Hence, it is difficult to draw up a concrete works schedule for the remaining village projects under the Programme at this stage. As for unsewered villages or areas, residents may continue to use on-site sewage treatment facilities, such as septic tanks and soakaway systems, to treat their sewage.

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