

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-EEB(E)001

(Question Serial No. SV026)

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:

Regarding the construction of public sewerage systems for unsewered areas in Yuen Long, please provide details of the following:

- (a) the implementation and timetable of the projects concerned (if any);
- (b) apart from historical factors in the locality, the reasons for a relatively slower implementation progress in Yuen Long than in other areas, including whether it is due to (i) a lack of financial resources; (ii) a lack of necessity to carry out the projects concerned; or (iii) a lower priority as compared to the village sewerage projects in other areas / new development areas or other projects;
- (c) whether the Government can confirm that public sewerage systems will still be progressively constructed for unsewered areas in Yuen Long to avoid local residents from relying on individual and simple on-site facilities (e.g. septic tanks) for sewage treatment and disposal; and
- (d) whether and how the implementation of relevant projects can be expedited?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

(a)

The Government has been striving to plan and develop the sewerage infrastructure in Yuen Long District to continuously improve the environmental hygiene conditions in rural areas. Currently, the construction of public sewerage system has been completed for 17 village areas in Yuen Long District (including recent completion of works for some areas in Kam Tin Shi last year). The Drainage Services Department (DSD) is currently constructing a public sewerage system for Tung Tau Tsuen in Shap Pat Heung. Moreover, the DSD has completed the investigation work relating to sewerage systems for a total of 29 village areas in Shap Pat Heung and Kam Tin Heung. The DSD will commence the next step of work in a timely manner.

The advance work for the village sewerage projects involves various steps, such as planning, feasibility study, detailed design, consultation, gazetting and land resumption, etc. In

particular, it is necessary to communicate with various stakeholders in reaching consensus on the consultation on sewerage schemes and site selection, as well as land resumption matters, before the projects could be taken forward in an orderly manner. Hence, it is difficult to draw up a concrete completion schedule for the remaining village sewerage works.

(b), (c) & (d)

The Environmental Protection Department and the DSD had carried out local consultation regarding the planning and design of trunk sewers and sewerage systems for some villages in Yuen Long, but could not work out a works proposal for some village areas as the stakeholders could not reach a consensus at that time. The Government will continue to strengthen communication with the stakeholders through District Councils, rural committees and village representatives, etc., with a view to reaching a consensus and taking forward the projects.

The Government will take into account various factors holistically, including the level of improvement to the environment by the village sewerage projects, density of village population, preference of residents, technical feasibility, cost effectiveness and financial position, etc. in taking forward the projects concerned, including the village sewerage projects in Yuen Long District, in a timely manner.

- End -