

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

**FHB(FE)136**

Question Serial No.

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

2471

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

The quality of public cleansing services is a matter of major public concern. Under Programme (2), both the total expenditure and manpower for 2009-10 will be reduced. It is worrying that there is a decrease in expenditure, although the decrease is due to the completion of the ex-gratia payment made last year. Please advise:

- (a) on the expenditure on cleansing services for 2009-10, the percentage it accounts for in the expenses under Programme (2) and the actual amount of change in expenditure as compared with that in 2008-09;
- (b) on the number of Workman II (WM II) engaged in cleansing services, the change in the number of WM II since 2004 and the estimated change in the number of WM II over the next 4 years (i.e. from 2010 to 2014) based on the medium range forecast; and
- (c) whether there will be any change in the ratio of outsourced workers employed by service contractors to in-house WM II in 2009 and over the next 4 years (i.e. from 2010 to 2014) based on the medium range forecast as the figures of the Department indicated that the ratio in 2008 was 65:35. If yes, what is the change?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

In 2009-10, the estimated expenditure on street cleansing and public toilets is about 60% of the total expenditure under this programme, representing an increase of about \$167 million against that of 2008-09.

It is estimated that as at 1 April 2009 the number of Workman II (WM II) on cleansing duties would be 2 341 as compared with 2 984 as at 1 April 2004. The deployment and need for WM II in the department is being actively reviewed and its requirement in the next four years will be considered having regard to the results of the review.

The existing mode of service delivery by engaging both departmental WM II and employees of service contractors has been working effectively. There is no rigid target ratio for contracting out and the department will keep the existing mode of service delivery under constant review.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **W H CHEUK**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **17.3.2009**