

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)051

(Question Serial No.1784)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots launched across the territory, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) How many complaints against illegal deposit of refuse have been received in various districts since the implementation of the programme?
- (2) How many prosecutions has the Government instituted against the act of illegal deposit of refuse after the amendment of the Fixed Penalty Ordinance?
- (3) Has the problem of illegal deposit of refuse been improved since the implementation of the programme and related measures? Were the relevant key performance indicators (KPI) set by the Government met?
- (4) What is the total number of closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems currently in place for monitoring hygiene blackspots? What is the number of successful prosecutions made by tracing the relevant footage? What is the proportion of this number out of the total number of prosecutions?
- (5) Further to the above question, will the Government install more CCTV systems in the coming year to combat illegal deposit of refuse? If yes, what are the targets and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- (1) Since the launch of the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots in August 2022, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has received a total of 12 090 complaints against illegal deposit of refuse in various districts across the territory.
- (2) and (3) The amended Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) (the Ordinance) came into effect on 22 October 2023. Under the Ordinance, the levels of fixed penalties for littering and illegal disposal of large amounts of waste in public places were raised to \$3,000 and \$6,000 respectively. According to records, 30 047 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) were issued for the above offences from 22 October 2023 to 21 October 2024, a drop of over 30% as compared with

44 075 notices during the same period in the previous year before the legislative amendment. It shows that the increase in the fixed penalty levels and the enforcement actions of the Government have achieved a substantial deterrent effect, which will contribute towards the Government's objective to improve environmental hygiene under the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots.

- (4) and (5) In 2024, the Department installed Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at about 470 illegal refuse deposit blackspots in various districts across the territory. Prosecutions were instituted and more effective enforcement actions were planned through analyses of the information obtained from the video footage. In 2024, the Department issued 31 945 FPNs against littering offences. 3 957 FPNs and 1 250 summonses were issued to offenders based on the information from the video footage captured by the IP cameras. The Department will continue to review the situation of illegal refuse deposit blackspots in various districts and deploy IP cameras effectively having regard to the actual needs and available resources. For instance, to combat littering from vehicles by irresponsible drivers or passengers, IP cameras have been installed on roads with central dividers at over 30 suitable locations across the territory in recent months. The footage captured will be used for prosecution so as to enhance law enforcement efficiency.

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