

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)105**

**(Question Serial No. 1986)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

As shown in the Indicators, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has strengthened its efforts for anti-rodent work, such as those for poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks and other public places, the number of rodent trappings, and the rodent trap nights newly applied, etc. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- a) the number of rodents caught and killed by the Department in the past 3 years;
- b) the number of staff engaged in rodent trapping and the average number of rodents caught and killed per person in the past 3 years;
- c) the total provision for rodent control and disinfection as well as the percentage out of the overall provision;
- d) whether there is a significant increase in the number of rodents caught and killed after trying out new rodent control and disinfection technologies and tools, and what the results of the Department's preliminary assessment of their effectiveness are; and
- e) the co-operation details in respect of the initiative mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention, i.e. the Department will strengthen co-operation with and provide necessary support for other departments and sectors to enhance rodent control. What are the results?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- a) The number of live rodents caught and the number of dead rodents collected by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in the past 3 years are provided as follows:

Year	Number of live rodents caught	Number of dead rodents collected
2022	45 422	31 810
2023	63 344	34 496
2024	89 629	33 249

- b)&c) In 2024, 745 in-house staff of FEHD and 1 573 staff engaged by the contractors were responsible for the provision of pest control services. In 2024-25, the overall revised estimated expenditure on pest control services was \$871 million. The manpower and expenditure covered not only rodent prevention and control but also the prevention and control work of mosquitoes and other arthropod pests with public health importance. Besides, the pest control work of FEHD includes daily inspections, law enforcement, technical support for different departments/organisations, publicity and education, as well as follow-ups to complaints. It does not maintain a separate breakdown on rodents trapping or rodent control.
- d) The number of live rodents caught in 2024 was 89 629, an increase of around 41% over that in the corresponding period in 2023 (63 344), and around 97% more than that in the corresponding period in 2022 (45 422), showing an enhancement in the effectiveness of anti-rodent work. In addition, according to the results of the Rodent Activity Survey (RAS) in 2024, a total of 90 locations have a Rodent Absence Rate (RAR) below 80% for the first half of 2024, indicating that rodent activities were more active. Nearly 90% (78) of these locations saw improvement for the second half of the year, with 42 of them achieving an RAR of over 90%. Besides, FEHD continued to conduct anti-rodent operations against 97 priority rodent blackspots in 2024, and eliminated around 65% (63) of the priority rodent blackspots, achieving the indicator set in the 2023 Policy Address, that is, to reduce the number of priority rodent blackspots by 60% by end-2024. These figures reflect the positive results achieved by FEHD in rodent control work.
- e) The collaboration work between FEHD and other government departments on rodent prevention and control includes:
- (i) collaborating with various government departments to conduct 2 rounds of territory-wide and inter-departmental anti-rodent campaign each year;
  - (ii) arranging exchanges with the relevant government departments through the Inter-departmental Working Group on Pest Prevention and Control to enhance the overall level of rodent control work;
  - (iii) conducting joint site inspections with the departments in case there is rodent infestation in venues under their management, and taking anti-rodent actions inside and outside the venues concurrently so as to enhance the effectiveness of rodent control;
  - (iv) providing contract templates on pest control to the contract management units of the relevant departments;
  - (v) arranging workshops and talks regarding pest control for the relevant departments, assisting them to adopt effective rodent prevention and control measures in the venues under their management as well as to strengthen their monitoring of the performance and effectiveness of their outsourced contractors;

- (vi) formulating the Code of Practice for Rodent Management and making a series of videos on rodent control for reference by the pest control staff of the relevant departments; and
- (vii) setting up the Working Group on Rodent Prevention and Control in Public Rental Housing Estates with the Housing Department to implement and strengthen rodent control work in public rental housing estates.

For private premises, apart from conducting site inspections at premises with rodent infestation and providing technical support, FEHD launched the Anti-rodent Charter (the Charter) for residential premises on 31 December 2024 to raise awareness on maintaining environmental hygiene and cultivate good habits among residents to create a rodent-free environment together. All property management companies/owners' corporations/residents' organisations of private residential premises, the Hong Kong Housing Society, transitional housing, subsidised sales flats and Tenants Purchase Scheme estates may sign up to the Charter. The participants should commit to assigning staff to coordinate anti-rodent efforts in their residential estates or buildings, conveying anti-rodent messages to residents, etc., and they will be provided with free anti-rodent technical support from FEHD. FEHD will leverage the Charter to enhance the effectiveness of rodent control in private buildings.

FEHD will also continue to assist the Environment and Ecology Bureau to implement the Cross-sectoral Territory-wide Anti-rodent Action, which was launched at end-2022, to encourage different sectors in the community, including property management companies, operators of market and hawker stalls, the catering industry, the construction industry and the pest control trade, to strengthen anti-rodent work within their respective sectors, and arranging health talks to provide them with information on rodent prevention and control.

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