

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)086

(Question Serial No. 0311)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the expenditure and effectiveness of the provision and maintenance of solar-powered refuse bins in rural areas by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) In the past 3 years (2023-24 to 2025-26), what were the changes in the number of solar-powered refuse bins? What were the expenditures on procurement, installation, and repair and maintenance in each year?
- (b) What is the normal utilisation rate of the above refuse collection facilities (in normal function and under operation)?
- (c) Solar-powered refuse bins are equipped with sensor-activated opening and compacting functions. It is noted that they often fail to open/close due to sensor malfunctions. Please set out the number of cases requiring repairs due to malfunctions during the above years. What was/were the main reason(s) for the malfunctions? What was the average time required for completing a repair upon receiving a report? What was the longest time taken?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department did not procure any solar-powered compacting refuse bins (SCRBs) in the past 3 years. The current number of SCRBs and the expenditure on their repair and maintenance are as follows:

Year	Number of SCRBs	Expenditure on repair and maintenance
2023-24	32	\$840,000
2024-25	32	\$850,000
2025-26 (Revised estimate)	32	\$710,000

- (b) Apart from clearing the SCRBs every day, staff of the Department and those of the contractors will also check the operation of the facilities. All the SCRBs are currently in normal operation.
- (c) In the past 3 years, the main cause for repair of SCRBs was the failure or damage of individual inlet openings. As other inlet openings remained operational, there was generally no interruption on the provision of refuse collection services. The numbers of repair cases are as follows:

Year	Number of repair cases
2023-24	29
2024-25	27
2025-26	29

According to records, the average time required for completing a repair upon receiving a report by the Department in the above years was 2 days. The longest case took 39 days. As the case involved procurement of parts and relatively complex repair work, a longer period of time was required. During the repair, the Department had put in place temporary measures to ensure that refuse collection services were not affected.

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