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**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development**

**Session No: 19**

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<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>
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**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members  
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11**

**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development**  
**Session No: 19**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#"><u>S-DEVB(W)01</u></a>	S049	Hon. LI Fung-ying	159	Intra-Governmental Services

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**S-DEVB(W)01**

Question Serial No.

S049

Head : 159 – Government Secretariat:  
Development Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead :

Programme : (4) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)031 has mentioned measures to protect workers wages in term contracts. Please define what “workers in term contracts” is. Can these measures also protect those so-called “long-term casual workers” or “casual workers” in the industry? Does the Administration have any other measures in place to address wage arrears in the industry, such as limiting the number of subcontracting layers and introducing security of payment among contractors so as to protect workers from non-payment of wages?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

Term contract is a form of contract generally adopted for maintenance works. Workers so employed may be referred to as “workers in term contracts”. Their main differences with “workers in capital works contracts” are that they are subject to frequent changes of works sites and shorter works period. Since May 2006, we have gradually incorporated measures to address wage arrears in capital works contracts. These measures include limiting the number of subcontracting layers, installing computerised smart card systems in construction sites to keep attendance records of site personnel and requiring the employment of Labour Relations Officers to monitor payment of wages. In view of the effectiveness of the measures adopted for capital works contracts, we will, in consultation with the construction industry, consider to gradually introduce the same or similar measures for application to term contracts as far as practicable, with an aim to protecting the wages of workers (including casual workers) working in construction sites under term contracts.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C K Mak

Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)

9 April 2010