

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)007

Question Serial No.

0879

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question:

- (a) In both 2001-02 and 2002-03, the Bureau mentioned the advertisement signboard registration scheme under "Matters Requiring Special Attention". The Bureau stated last year (March 2002) that the relevant Bill would be submitted to the Legislative Council in 2002-03 for consideration. What is the progress of the relevant legislative work?
- (b) Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04", the Bureau made no mention of the legislative work for the advertisement signboard registration scheme and instead referred to the registration system for contractors engaged in advertisement signboards. Does this mean that the Administration will first handle the legislative work in relation to the registration of contractors before embarking on the advertisement signboard registration scheme?
- (c) What will be done to the provision of \$15.5 million reserved in 2002-03 for launching the advertisement signboard registration scheme?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

- (a) From the building control point of view, the main concern arising from advertisement signboards is their safety. Having regard to the detailed proposals now developed for amending the Buildings Ordinance, including the minor works system, we have concluded that they would effectively address this concern. It is not necessary to pursue the registration of signboards for the purpose.

We intend to submit the Buildings (Amendment) Bill on this and other matters to the Legislative Council within the 2002-03 legislative session.

- (b) Please see (a).

The proposed minor works system includes the registration of contractors qualified to undertake minor works. We envisage that most signboards will fall under the minor works category.

- (c) The provision of \$15.5 million has been redeployed to support other work for building safety and maintenance in 2002-03, including large-scale operations to deal with unauthorized building works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso _____

Post Title _____ Acting Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands) _____

Date _____ 21 March 2003 _____