

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)009

Question Serial No.

0986

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 :

Regarding the review of the small house policy carried out under the above programme :

- (a) What is the amount of resources expected to be committed in 2003-04?
- (b) What is the amount of resources that have been utilized since the review began in 1998?
- (c) When will the result of the review be published and why does it take so many years?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) and (b) The Small House Policy review mainly involves deliberations among relevant government bureaux and departments, and consultations with stakeholders such as Heung Yee Kuk and Legislative Council. The work involved is absorbed by existing staff of the relevant bureaux and departments, and no additional resources are required.
- (c) During the course of the review, a number of inter-related and complex issues have been identified. These issues include optimal use of land resources, sewage and infrastructural matters associated with small house developments. We consider that there is a need to review the Policy and the related issues in a comprehensive manner. It will therefore take time to conduct the review. We will consult various stakeholders with a view to making preliminary proposals for more in-depth discussion. The Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands intends to pursue, within the tenure of his office, the review of the Policy and related issues in a comprehensive manner and hopes to resolve the associated problems within that time scale.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso _____

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

Date _____ March 2003 _____