

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)014

Question Serial No.

1243

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 :

According to the document, the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau will formulate legislative proposals on measures to resolve the problem of missing or illegible government leases. In this connection, could the Government inform us as to :

- (a) whether there are direct links between the proposals and the Land Titles Bill soon to be considered by the Legislative Council, whether the timetable concerning the work on these proposals could be disclosed, when the public will be consulted and when the details will be announced?
- (b) the implications of such work for public expenditure as expected by the Bureau?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) The purpose of the proposed legislation on missing and illegible Government leases is to provide a mechanism to reconstitute the missing and illegible government leases and related land documents. The Land Titles Bill, being examined by the Legislative Council, aims to provide for a system of registration of title to land. They serve two distinct purposes.

As regards the timetable for the proposed legislation on missing and illegible Government leases, we are in the process of identifying a workable reconstitution mechanism. We intend to consult the major stakeholders on the proposals before finalising them for introduction into the Legislative Council. The proposed legislation is highly technical and complex, and it will take time to complete the necessary consultation and law drafting procedures. We envisage that the relevant bill may only be ready in 2004/2005.

- (b) The preparation work relating to the proposed legislation mainly involves staff costs and they are absorbed by relevant departments within their existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Tso

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2003