Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)017

Question Serial No.

088

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

During 2003-04, the Buildings Department will upgrade the fire safety standards of old composite buildings in collaboration with the Fire Services Department. Please give a detailed account of this project and the necessary expenditures.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

Under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance enacted in July 2002, fire safety improvement is required for composite (domestic and non-domestic) buildings and domestic buildings constructed before March 1987 that do not meet the current fire safety standards. The improvement will provide better protection from the risk of fire for occupants and users of these buildings. Under a phased programme, Buildings Department and Fire Services Department will require improvement works to be carried out to about 9,000 composite buildings within the next 10 years and thereafter to about 3,000 domestic buildings in three years. According to the programme, Buildings Department will conduct building inspections and issue letters to advise the owners of 900 old composite buildings on the improvement of fire safety provisions in 2003. The operation involves the employment of 47 professional and supporting staff, and costs $15.35 million.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	15 March 2003