

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)018

Question Serial No.

0158

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 :

The Government indicated that, in 2003-04, the Buildings Department (BD) will target 1 000 buildings for carrying out special clearance operations, and 700 single-staircase buildings for clearance of illegal rooftop structures; BD will further improve the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme to provide assistance to building owners in maintaining their buildings. However, the estimated number of loan approved under the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme in 2003 is 1 850, which is fewer than the actual number of loan approved, i.e. 2,830 in 2002. Can the Government advise this Council the reason for making this estimation?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

The number of applications for the loan scheme is affected by, inter alia, the number of removal orders issued on unauthorized building works. Since 2002, we have adopted an annual target of 25,000 removal orders issued on unauthorized buildings works. This target is considerably higher than those in previous years. In 2002, the Buildings Department (BD) over-achieved this annual target and issued 54,010 removal orders to building owners. The number of applications for the loan scheme in that year saw a corresponding increase. As the number of removal orders issued in 2003 is estimated to be 25,000, the number of loan applications approved in 2003 is accordingly estimated to be lower than that in 2002.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.3.2003