

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)064

Question Serial No.

1201

Head: 91 Lands Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme:                      (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer:          Director of Lands

Director of Bureau:          Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : As a matter of urban renewal,

- a) please advise on the details and expenditure pertinent to the land resumption work for the provision of land to the Urban Renewal Authority in 2003-04; and
- b) regarding the indicator of 195 set for the urban renewal projects (no. of property interests), what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply:
- a) The Urban Renewal Section (URS) of Lands Department is responsible for resuming land for the projects of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). The work involved includes the collection of property and ownership data, District Council consultation, preparing submissions to the Executive Council for the land resumption, handling objections and representations, assessing, negotiating and paying compensation and implementing the final clearance. The estimated expenditure of the URS under Head 91 Lands Department in 2003-04 is about \$31 million, which is provided under Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General). The sum is re-imbursable by the URA.
  - b) The figure of 195 refers to the number of property interests in URA projects (i.e. individual flats or shops or lots in single ownership) estimated to require resumption. The need for resumption can be due to various reasons, including title problems, untraceable owners and the URA not being able to acquire the interests through negotiation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title                      Director of Lands

Date                              21.3.2003