

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY  
TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)065

Question Serial No.

1241

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title): 600 Works

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling  
Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The programme mentioned in the document relating to "Land Administration" involves land resumption for infrastructure construction, e.g. the clearance of three cottage areas under Head 91 Sub-head 600 including land clearance and rehousing occupants. The duty is similar to that of the Housing Department under Head 62 "Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control" and that of the Buildings Department under Head 82 "Building & Construction". Will the Government inform this Committee :

(a) whether the Bureau will consider restructuring the duty of land resumption and rehousing with a view to saving work procedure and public expenditure? How much expenditure can be saved each year?

(b) if not, why?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

Under Head 91 Subhead 600, provisions have been made in 2003-04 for the demolition of three cottage areas. In this respect, Lands Department (Lands D)'s role is confined to the provision of funds to Housing Department (HD) for the demolition of the three cottage areas which sit on land held by the Lands D. Over the years, demolition of cottage areas has been undertaken by HD which is also responsible for the rehousing arrangements as in all other clearances.

Squatter and temporary housing clearance and squatter control constitute a Programme under Head 62. Under this Programme, HD acts on behalf of the Government and clears land for development and other purposes.

As regards Head 82, Buildings Department (BD) is responsible for the identification and removal of unauthorized building works which pose a danger or potential danger to the public or found to be newly erected. The aim is to promote building safety through enforcement of the Buildings Ordinance.

The aforementioned work involves the discharge of different duties by the relevant departments under their areas of responsibilities. As an on-going process, government departments will explore measures (e.g. re-engineering, re-organization and re-prioritisation) to enhance efficiency and achieve cost savings.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003