

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)089

Question Serial No.

0956

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (3) – Ordinance Review

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : According to the information provided, only 6 staff members of the Planning Department are deployed to review the Town Planning Ordinance. Will the Government consider deploying additional staff to speed up the work on amending the Ordinance?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

We intend to propose amendments to the Town Planning Ordinance in stages giving priority to amendments with general consensus and clear immediate benefits to the community. Stage One amendments would be introduced to the LegCo in mid-2003. Other more complicated proposals requiring further consultation with stakeholders will be reviewed and incorporated in the later stage amendments after completion of the Stage One amendment exercise. In view of the phased approach, it is expected that the existing number of officers in the Ordinance Review Team would be adequate to carry out the tasks. Other sections dealing with statutory planning matters would also contribute to the review of the Ordinance as and when required. Unexpected upsurge in workload will be met by internal re-deployment of staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

20 March 2003