

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)054

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

Question Serial No.

Programme (No. & title) : Buildings and Building Works

0686

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

- (a) The Department pledges to step up enforcement action against unauthorized building works. It is expected the number of prosecutions against failure to comply with removal orders will increase from 684 in 2003 to 1,000 in 2004, and further to 2,000 in 2005. How will the Department ensure that adequate fiscal and human resources will be deployed to enforce compliance of outstanding removal orders as well as to tackle the extra workload arising from more prosecutions?
- (b) 2,676 repair orders were issued on dilapidated buildings in 2003, and, according to the Department's estimation, 800 will be issued in 2004. What is the number of outstanding repair orders in 2003? How many are estimated in 2004? How will the Department ensure that adequate fiscal and human resources are deployed to enforce compliance of outstanding repair orders?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) In 2004-05, we have secured an additional provision of \$31.3 million for employing 135 additional staff on agreement terms in clearing backlog removal orders and associated works. Apart from this, we will engage additional staff through internal redeployment to assist in initiating 1,000 prosecutions in 2004 against owners who fail to comply with removal orders.

- (b) The majority of the repair orders issued in 2003 are drainage repair orders arising mainly from the territory-wide inspection of private buildings carried out to detect defective drainage pipes in the wake of the SARS outbreak. Of the 2,676 repair orders issued in 2003, 2,100 have not been complied with up to mid-March 2004. It is difficult to estimate the number of outstanding orders in 2004, but we will ensure owners' compliance and enforce outstanding orders through prosecution actions or employing the Buildings Department's term contractor to carry out the works and recover the cost from the owners afterwards.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	25.3.2004