

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)077

Question Serial No.

1515

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: Regarding the processing of applications from indigenous villagers for rent concession, the actual number in 2003-04 shows a decrease of 75% as compared to that in 2002-03, but the Government estimates that the number in 2004-05 will show an increase of 60% as compared to that in last year. Will the Administration please explain the reason for such fluctuations?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

In 2002, which was the end of the first five year rent collection cycle since 1997, there was a large influx of 20 854 applications for rent concession. During that year, a total of 29 200 cases were processed. In 2003, the number of new applications dropped to 11 836 cases. However, there was a re-prioritization of work in 2003 and 7 212 cases were processed. The remaining cases (about 4 000) have been carried forward to 2004 which will have an estimated 8 000 new applications. Lands Department therefore plans to process about 12 000 cases in 2004, representing more than 60% increase over 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 27 March 2004