

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)090

Question Serial No.

1645

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: Why did the Government fail to achieve its target regarding the processing of small house applications in 2002 and 2003? How many small house applications are still awaiting processing? What is the number of posts designated for dealing with such work?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

We processed 2 161 and 2 132 small house applications, and executed 842 and 711 small house grants in 2002 and 2003 respectively. The main reason for not achieving the target (i.e. 1 200 executed cases) is that many of the applications were non-straightforward cases and involved a number of problems such as local objections and site constraints. Moreover, some applicants failed to proceed with the execution of the land grant documents after the approval of their applications. At present, 3 349 small house applications are on the waiting list for processing and 7 040 applications are under processing. 113 officers are designated for dealing with small house applications and related work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004