

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)064**

Question Serial No.

0815

Head: 91 Lands Department                      Subhead(No. & title): 221 Clearance of government  
land – ex-gratia allowances

Programme:                      (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer:        Director of Lands

Director of Bureau:        Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : 1. Please explain under what circumstances the ex-gratia allowances for clearance of government land are offered. Please also explain who are regarded as “persons cleared from government land other than in the course of clearances required for public works projects”.

2. The estimate for 2005-06 has increased by more than two times when compared with the revised estimate for the last year. Why?

Asked by:    Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

Ex-gratia allowances for clearance of government land are offered to eligible occupiers, business operators of squatter structures covered by Housing Department’s survey records and genuine cultivators on government land. Ex-gratia allowances are also offered for indigenous villagers’ ancestral graves affected by clearance. Whilst the majority of clearances are carried out to provide land required for public works projects, clearances are also carried out for other purposes such as clearances for land disposal, environmental improvement projects and clearances of squatter structures affected by potentially dangerous slopes etc.

The increase of the estimate for 2005-06 is mainly attributable to the larger scale of the clearances expected to be carried out.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block  
letters        PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title        Director of Lands

Date                6 April 2005

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