

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)076**

**Question Serial No.**

1078

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 :
- a) All the three targets set under "Land acquisition" were met in 2003 and 2004. Will the Government consider further enhancing the efficiency of the services concerned in the estimates for 2005? If yes, what is the implication on the financial expenditures; if no, why?
  - b) Can the Government further enhance the target for various services under Programme (1) Land Administration? How much resource is required for shortening the pledged processing time by every one week for these services?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

- a) Our overall aim has all along been that we must expedite the processing and issue of compensation offers and the release of compensation payments so as to facilitate the affected parties in vacating from their existing occupations before the final clearance date.

However, the scope to further raise these targets is extremely limited bearing in mind that the legal complexity and magnitude of the clearance commitments involved in resumption projects could vary considerably. Besides, in some of the work covered by these targets, input is required from parties outside our direct control.

We will nevertheless explore ways to enhance the efficiency of our services through simplification and streamlining of the existing practices and procedures within the constraint of existing resources.

- b) Regarding land disposal and lease variations (modifications, exchanges and extensions), we continuously review our current systems and procedures for simplification and streamlining wherever possible. In respect of the Application List System of land sale, for example, we have, on 4 March 2005, announced measures to increase efficiency and enhance transparency resulting in a total saving of 3 weeks or 30% in the time taken to bring a triggered site to auction. With regard to the lease modification process, we will continue to critically examine the procedures and discuss with various stakeholders with a view to making further enhancements.

There will be resource implications in shortening processing time but given the varied nature of the transactions, it is not possible to give an estimate on the additional resources required for shortening the processing time.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 6 April 2005

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