

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)031**

**Question Serial No.**

**1549**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under Programme (3), the Government has estimated that the area to be assessed for aquaculture fisheries ex-gratia payment in 2006 will be 216 000 m<sup>2</sup>, representing a sixfold increase compared with the actual area assessed in 2004. Will the Government inform this Committee of the reasons for the drastic increase in the estimated assessment area in 2006 and the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The area assessed for aquaculture fisheries ex-gratia payment varies from year to year depending on the number, scale and progress of development projects for the year. The larger area to be assessed in 2006 is mainly due to anticipated claims from pond fish farmers to be affected by a number of development works projects in the New Territories such as the "Drainage Improvement in Northern New Territories" and "Yuen Long, Kam Tin, Ngau Tam Mei and Tin Shui Wai Drainage Improvement". A provision of \$0.9 million has been allocated to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2006-07 for assessing these claims.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	9 March 2006