Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

S-HPLB(PL)05

Question Serial No.

<u>Head</u>: 82 Buildings Department <u>Subhead</u> (No. & title):

S45

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: According to the reply of HPLB(PL)037, the Administration will step up prosecution actions against those owners who failed to comply with the removal orders. As most of the unauthorised building works (UBWs) are erected at old tenement buildings where the owners are mostly elderly people, does the Administration currently provide any assistance or lenient measures to these owners who are in financial difficulties so as to help them remove these UBWs?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Regarding elderly owners who encounter financial difficulties in the removal of UBWs, they may apply for an interest-free loan from the Buildings Department's Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme. They may also apply for extending the period of repayment of the loan from 36 to 72 monthly instalments or, in exceptional circumstances, to an unspecified period until the transfer of title of the property or death of the borrower, whichever takes place earlier.

Signature	
Name in block letters	CHEUNG Hau-wai
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	18 March 2006