

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)144

Question Serial No.

1045

Head: 701 Land Acquisition Subhead (No. & title): 1033CA Redemption money payable in respect of land exchange entitlements and interest payable thereon under the New Territories Land Exchange Entitlements (Redemption) Ordinance

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Regarding the "Redemption money payable in respect of land exchange entitlements and interest payable thereon under the New Territories Land Exchange Entitlements (Redemption) Ordinance" for infrastructure projects under Land Acquisition for Capital Works Reserve Fund, out of the approved project estimate of \$2,400 million, only about \$1,100 million has been used after taking into account the revised estimate for 2006-07, and there is an unspent amount of \$1,300 million. It is estimated that the amount to be used in 2007-08 will significantly drop to only \$1 million. Why?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

The funding commitment under 1033CA was approved by the Finance Committee in 1997, and the redemption work is ongoing. There is no cut-off date for submitting applications for redemption. As in previous years, the estimate of \$1 million for 2007-08 is a notional figure. The actual figure will depend on the applications, if any, received and the amount of payments approved during 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 15 March 2007