

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB207**

**(Question Serial No. 2290)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

With regard to Programme (1), the average usage rates of sports grounds managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in the past two years reached 99% while the average usage rates of natural turf pitches reached 100%. The planned average usage rates of sports grounds and natural turf pitches remain at 99% and 100% respectively for the coming year. Given that the usage rates of the above recreation and sports facilities have reached the ceiling, will the Government provide the following information:

Has the Department conducted any research or study on the demand and provision of sports grounds and natural turf pitches? If so, what are the manpower and expenditures involved and is there a shortfall in the supply of the facilities? If not, will the Government conduct such research or study? Will the Government provide more sports grounds and natural turf pitches? If so, what are the details? How many sports grounds and natural turf pitches are planned to be built? What are their locations? Has the Department received any proposals regarding the provision of new sports grounds and natural turf pitches from the 18 District Councils (DCs) in the past three years? If so, what are the DC districts? How many proposals have been received from them respectively? Has the Department accepted the proposals? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (Member Question No. 70)

Reply:

As at 1 January 2016, there were 25 sports grounds and 42 natural turf pitches managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). As part of its on-going work, the LCSD keeps constant review on the usage of its sports grounds and turf pitches with a view to providing appropriate facilities to meet public demand. The LCSD does not have a breakdown on the expenditure involved in the on-going review.

The LCSD is planning one new sports ground with natural turf pitch in Tuen Mun district in consultation with the District Council. Detailed implementation plan will be worked out in due course.

As regards football pitches, the LCSD will take into account the demand of the whole territory and individual communities for natural and artificial turf football pitches as well as the views of the District Councils and “national sports associations” concerned before deciding on the turf system to be used. In view of the advantages of artificial turf football pitches which can be used for 270 sessions per month (i.e. 4 times that of the natural turf pitches), the LCSD plans to provide 2 more Third-Generation pitches in 2016 by converting existing natural turf pitches. In addition, a 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch will be provided under an open space project in Sham Shui Po District. The target completion date is 2017-18.

The Kwai Tsing District Council and Southern District Council have requested the provision of a natural turf pitch in their districts. The LCSD will consult relevant departments and explore the possibility of taking forward the requests.

- End -