

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB191**

**(Question Serial No. 1536)**

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:

It is stated in the Budget that the usage rates of sports grounds managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department reached 99% in several consecutive years. Please provide information on the amount of provision earmarked by the Government in this year for the daily management of the sports grounds. Does the Government have statistics on the number of users of sports ground facilities for each year in the past 3 years? What are the ratios between individual users and organisation hirers among these users? When the sports grounds are open to the public for free, is it that only facilities like tracks are included while sand pits for long jump and other facilities are not made available? If so, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

Sports grounds, including the running tracks and athletic facilities for track and field, are open for booking and use by schools and organisations for athletic meets, competitions, training or major community events. The utilisation rate in the past 3 years was 99%. During the training and competitions using the athletic facilities, a teacher or a qualified instructor must be present to take charge of all the activities and the safety of participants. For safety reasons, sports grounds are not available for individual bookings.

When the sports grounds are not reserved for training or competitions and are not closed for maintenance, the running tracks are open for public use free of charge while the fields remain closed due to the above-mentioned safety reasons.

- End -