

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)257****(Question Serial No. 4317)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (694) Archaeological excavations (block vote)

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 64):

The estimated provision for “archaeological excavations” (block vote) in 2014-15 is higher than those in previous years. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the numbers and sites of archaeological excavations conducted in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, and the number of archaeologists and the expenditure involved in each archaeological project;
- (2) a list of archaeological excavation projects which have been planned but not yet commenced, the area covered by the archaeological study and the present condition of the archaeological sites;
- (3) the number of archaeological excavations expected to be conducted in 2014-15, and the number of archaeologists and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (1) The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) conducts archaeological surveys and excavations necessitated by small-scale development projects such as small house development in the New Territories. The number of archaeological surveys and excavations carried out and the expenditure incurred in a particular year depends on the number of small-scale developments that necessitate such work. There are two field archaeologists in AMO to undertake such surveys and excavations.

As the surveys and excavations are carried out with the support of service contractors engaged by AMO under several service contracts, LCSD is unable to provide a breakdown of the expenditure for the individual surveys/excavations. The total expenditure incurred by AMO in this respect in the past three years is listed in the table below:

| Year | No. of archaeological surveys and excavations arising from small-scale development projects | Expenditure |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|
| 2011-12 | 11 | \$882,068 |
| 2012-13 | 12 | \$880,790 |
| 2013-14 | 8 | \$750,000 (Estimated) |

- (2) AMO has received seven new cases of small house development for which archaeological surveys and excavations have been planned. The archaeological surveys and excavations will cover a total of about 4 900 square feet of land on sites of archaeological interest identified by AMO.
- (3) It is anticipated that 11 archaeological surveys and excavations including the seven mentioned in (2) necessitated by small-scale development projects will be arranged in 2014-15 at an estimated expenditure of \$881,000 under the supervision of the two field archaeologists of AMO.