

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB203**

**(Question Serial No. 0655)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ( )

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 mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015-16 under Programme (1) Recreation and Sports that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will continue to enhance utilisation of existing sports facilities.

1. According to the actual average usage rates provided for 2013 and 2014, the average usage rates of artificial turf pitches and tennis courts are 74% and 60-61% respectively, which are far below the average usage rates of natural turf pitches (100%) and sports grounds (99%). Has the Government reviewed the causes of the relatively low usage rates of the facilities? If so, please provide the details. Will the Government consider reviewing the indicators for the facilities to keep up with the demands? If so, please provide the details. If not, please explain the reasons.
2. What measures will be taken by the Government to enhance the utilisation of artificial turf pitches and tennis courts?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

1. The average usage rates of artificial turf pitches and tennis courts are lower than those of other sports facilities primarily because of their lower usage rates during non-peak hours. As a result of the efforts made by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to promote the use of tennis courts, their average usage rate has increased from 58% in 2011 to 60% in 2014, as compared to the target usage rate of 50%. As for the artificial turf pitches, the target and average usage rates are 72% and 74% respectively, despite the increase in the number of artificial turf football pitches from 29 in 2011 to 33 in 2014. LCSD will keep in view the usage rates for review of the target usage rate of the facilities in the coming year.
2. To encourage greater use of its sports facilities especially during non-peak hours, LCSD

will continue to allow concessionary use of selected sports facilities by schools and subvented non-government organisations, during non-peak hours and by organisations for people with disabilities at all times. To promote the usage of artificial turf pitches and tennis courts, citizens aged 60 or above can enjoy concessionary rates for the use of both artificial turf pitches and tennis courts during non-peak hours while people with disabilities can enjoy concessionary rates for the use of these facilities at all times. Full-time students can also enjoy concessionary rates for the use of tennis courts during non-peak hours.

In addition, LCSD will continue to upgrade the standard of its sports facilities and organise large-scale promotional activities such as Sport For All Day, as well as fun days, training courses and competitions to promote the use of sports facilities.

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