

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB475**

**(Question Serial No. 6695)**

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:

1. What measures are taken to safeguard the quality of natural turf football pitches which have a usage rate of almost 100%?
2. There is a shortfall in the supply of natural turf football pitches as evidenced by the almost 100% usage rate. Does the Government have any plans to build more pitches or introduce other measures to meet the demand? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 583)

Reply:

1. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has implemented the following measures to manage and maintain natural turf pitches effectively -
  - (a) the establishment of the Sports Turf Management Section to provide professional advice and technical support for the management and maintenance of natural turf pitches;
  - (b) the provision of skilled workers and equipment to facilitate the execution of turf maintenance works; and
  - (c) the provision of more training courses, both local and overseas for staff so as to equip them with the requisite skills and knowledge in turf management and maintenance.

Around \$12.70 million has been earmarked in 2015-16 for the implementation of the above measures.

2. LCSD seeks to provide more football pitches to meet the keen public demand. In general, a natural turf pitch can provide up to 60 sessions per month, while a Third

Generation (3G) artificial turf pitch can be used for 270 sessions per month. In the coming two years (from 2015 to 2016), LCSD plans to convert five natural turf pitches and five older generation artificial turf pitches to 3G artificial turf pitches. One new 3G artificial turf pitch in Kwun Tong District will be completed in 2015.

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