



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Sunday, December 30, 1973

## SAVE-FUEL DRIVE UNAFFECTED BY COLD SPELL

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The current cold weather has not meant any slackening in the momentum of the government's drive to economise on the use of fuel.

In government buildings that are centrally heated, the temperature has been reduced by several degrees as one way of cutting back on the amount of fuel consumed. Where the heating is operated on a zone system, arrangements have been made for the heating to be switched off whenever the zones are not being used.

In buildings not centrally heated, electric heaters are normally distributed freely to each office with the onset of the colder weather.. However, because of the world fuel situation, heaters are now only issued on request and in some cases the decision is made by the head of the department.

At the same time, a number of civil servants are breaking away from the traditional shirt and tie mode of dress and turning to warmer "roll neck" sweaters and jackets.

The staff of at least one government department has quickly adapted to the rather colder conditions by switching to the "new mode of dress," thus obviating the need to resort to electric heaters.

It is too early at this stage to gauge the amount of electricity saved by these and other economy measures being adopted throughout the government, but it is expected to be well above the target figure of a 15 per cent reduction in fuel consumption.

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CRASH HELMET REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE FROM TUESDAY

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The Commissioner for Transport, Mr. B.D. Wilson, today reminded motorcyclists and their pillion riders that starting from Tuesday (January 1), they will be required by law to wear approved crash helmets while riding a motor cycle. They must also have the crash helmets securely fastened.

The new regulations are laid down in the Road Traffic (Protective Equipment) Regulations 1973, which were approved by the Executive Council in June this year.

Any motorcyclist or pillion rider who fails to comply with the regulations will be liable to a fine of \$500 and three months' imprisonment on first conviction. The maximum penalty on second or subsequent convictions is a fine of \$1,000 and six months' jail.

Approved protective helmets are those satisfying the following standards, as indicated by the label in the helmet: British Standard 2001; British Standard 1869; British Standard 2495; Japanese Industrial Standard JIS T 8133-1970; Australian Standard E 33-1968; American National Standards Institute Z90.1-1966, Z90.1-1970 and Z90.1-1971; Institute Belge De Normalization BENOR NBN 626; Deutsche Normen DIN 4848; French National Standard AFNOR NFS 72-301; and Dutch National Institute for Road Vehicles TNO.

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### CHICKEN BREEDING AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY

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Family-type chicken farms in the New Territories play an important role in chicken farming in Hong Kong.

These farms, which number about 4,000, form the nucleus of the industry which, in terms of value, is an essential form of livestock husbandry in Hong Kong, yielding more than \$148 million for the farmers last year.

Chicken raising is carried out extensively in many parts of the N.T. and the products supplied almost 53 per cent of the total domestic consumption of live chickens in 1972.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department gives every encouragement and assistance to the farmers to help them develop their industry and improve their products.

A spokesman said that the chief beneficiaries of the department's services were the operators of the family-type farms, each of which produced between 500 and 70,000 chickens a year, depending on their sizes.

He said poultry husbandry experts of the department recommended to the farmers modern methods of the industry, such as incubation, poultry nutrition, ration formulation and poultry housing so as to put their operation on a more scientific basis.

A recent addition to this team is Miss Tam Yuen-yin who returned to Hong Kong just a few months ago from Britain after studying poultry husbandry for two years.

The department also helped the farmers to prevent and control major fowl diseases such as Newcastle and fowl cholera. These diseases could be responsible for high mortality rates, the spokesman pointed out.

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The inoculation and vaccination programmes of the Department had been successful in containing these diseases by the prevention of widespread epidemics and thus limiting them from causing financial damages to the farmers.

The Department's Castle Peak Poultry Breeding Centre provides inoculation and vaccination services. Advice and preventive medicine were also given to the farmers for their fowls.

Farmers wishing to have good quality chicks for raising can buy them from the Centre's Poultry Production Unit where three flocks - Cantonese, Wai Chow and New Hampshire are maintained for hatching chicks and eggs.

A Apart from the family-type farms, he said there were several large enterprise-type farms which were well managed and equipped.

The largest of them, the Kau Hing Farm at Sek Kong, occupies a site of 210,000 square feet with an annual output of about 100,000 chickens.

The spokesman went on to say that the rising costs in chicken feed had posed difficulties to the farmers.

"The cost of chicken feed, especially that of maize, is the chief economic concern of the farmers.

"Higher feed cost discourage them from carrying out bold expansion plans. Last year, the local chicken production decreased by 14 per cent as a result of higher cost of imported chicken feed."

Due to reduced production of maize in Thailand which is the main source of supply of the crop, the price of maize last year rose from \$32 to \$60 a picul in Hong Kong.

However, he said the price of maize had dropped by more than 20 per cent since the early part of this year, thus enabling the farmers to sell their products at competitive prices again.

"In order to maintain local products at a competitive position, there is a need for ways to be worked out to avoid production cost being affected by fluctuation of chicken feed cost," the spokesman observed.

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Farmers were being encouraged to make a joint effort in conjunction with the Department to overcome the problem of fluctuation of chicken feed prices, he added.

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Release Time: 2.00 p.m.