



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,  
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This arrangement has ensured that existing DIB subscribers as well as the general public can have quicker access to the press releases issued daily by the Hong Kong Government through the Information Superhighway.

Following the upgrading of services, the DIB will no longer be printed in hard copies and distributed by post to subscribers with effect from May 1, 1997.

This decision will do good to the community at large in terms of environmental protection as 3.1 million sheets of A4-size paper will be saved each year, not to mention the saving of postage and large quantity of ink for printing.

If you wish to have the DIB sent directly to your Internet e-mail account, please complete and return the attached slip to GIS, 8th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, before May 1, 1997 or by fax through 2845 9078. You can, of course, provide your e-mail account to us through our Internet mail account : [isdnews@isd.gcn.gov.hk](mailto:isdnews@isd.gcn.gov.hk).

It is the policy of this department that we should aim at running a paperless office in the long run, but if you have difficulties in the new arrangements, please contact the undersigned at 2842 8738.

*Robert Yip*  
(Robert YIP)

for Director of Information Services

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Wednesday, April 23, 1997

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Firm chosen to audit the Exchange Fund of HK

\* \* \* \* \*

In accordance with the "Agreed Minute on the Question of the Arrangements for the Transfer of the Exchange Fund of Hong Kong", the British and Chinese sides have, through a tender process, jointly chosen Price Waterhouse to audit the statements of assets and liabilities of the Exchange Fund of Hong Kong as at March 31, 1997 and June 30, 1997.

End

Legislation on budget revenue to be introduced into LegCo

\* \* \* \* \*

Bills which are necessary to implement the 1997-98 Budget revenue proposals will be gazetted on Friday (April 25).

There will altogether be six bills.

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill 1997 seeks to increase the salaries tax allowances and the maximum deduction for training expenses as announced in the Budget. It also seeks to rationalise the salaries tax marginal tax structure.

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1997 seeks to provide for the deduction of foreign withholding tax paid by a company on its income in the assessment of profits, irrespective of whether the company is controlled or managed in Hong Kong. The opportunity is also taken to amend the Inland Revenue Ordinance in order to improve the operation of the Board of Review (Inland Revenue) and other aspects of the legislation.

The Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill 1997 seeks to adjust stamp duty on property transactions to bring relief to home buyers of flats with values up to \$4 million.

The Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill 1997 seeks to increase the exemption level of estate duty from \$6.5 million to \$7 million and to adjust the marginal duty thresholds correspondingly.

The Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill 1997 seeks to increase the duties for tobacco, fuel and methyl alcohol by six per cent, in line with inflation, and to reduce the ad valorem duty rate on wine from 90 per cent to 60 per cent. The opportunity is also taken to increase the penalty for offences relating to the marking and the detreatment of marking of diesel oil so as to enhance the deterrent effect against illegal activities on diesel oil. The penalty will be increased from the current level of a fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for two years.

The Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund)(Amendment) Bill 1997 seeks to make consequential amendments in respect of the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund Scheme to tie in with the issue of 10-year driving licences. The main legislative amendments for the issue of 10-year licences are set out in the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 1997 which would also be gazetted on April 25. The Amendment Regulation would be tabled in the Legislative Council on April 30.

The Secretary for the Treasury will introduce the bills into the Legislative Council on Wednesday, April 30.

The Secretary for the Treasury will also move resolutions in the Legislative Council on May 7 to implement the Budget concession proposals on rates, i.e. the reduction of the overall rates percentage charge from 5.5 per cent to five per cent and the capping of rates increase to 20 per cent for 1997-98 and for 1998-99, and on the extension of the first registration tax exemption for electric vehicles for another three years.

The increase in tobacco, fuel and methyl alcohol duties and the reduction in wine duty took effect on March 12 and the concessions in rates, stamp duty on property transactions, estate duty and first registration tax exemption for electric vehicles took effect on April 1 under Public Revenue Protection Orders signed by the Governor on March 11. The Orders are valid for four months.

End

### Stamp duty on trading of regional derivatives warrants remitted

\* \* \* \* \*

The Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Rafael Hui announced today (Wednesday) the remission of stamp duty on the trading of regional derivatives warrants and convertible bonds.

Speaking at the listing ceremony of the first regional derivatives warrants being launched in Asia at the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, Mr Hui said that the two new products were initiated by the Working Group on New Market Development under the Stock Exchange.

He said the Government realised that the development of new products was an essential measure not only for maintaining Hong Kong's competitiveness, but also for enhancing Hong Kong's status as a regional and global financial centre.

He said it was also in line with the Government's objective to promote services industry as well as that of the helping business programme.

"The Financial Secretary has already mentioned in his 1997-98 Budget Speech that he welcomes the developing and marketing of new products and would be willing to consider favourably, on a case-by-case basis, some incentives new products might enjoy," he said.

"We are hopeful that remitting the stamp duty on the regional derivatives warrants and convertible bonds would facilitate the trading of these products which will further encourage more new products to be developed and launched to the market," he added.

End

### Television regulations on programme services made

\* \* \* \* \*

The following subsidiary legislation has been made by the Governor in Council and will be published in the Gazette in early May 1997:

- (a) Television (Advertising) Regulation;
- (b) Television (Programmes) Regulation; and
- (c) Television (Royalty and Licence Fees) (Amendment) Regulation 1997.

These regulations will be subject to vetting by the Legislative Council and when approved, will complete the legislative framework for the regulation of programme services.

A spokesman for the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch said today (Wednesday): "Under these regulations, VOD programme service licensees as well as commercial television and subscription television licensees will be subject to similar regulations on advertising, programming, royalty and licence fee payments.

"Programme service licensees will also be subject to full cost-recovery licence fees. However, given the concessions extended to other television and radio licensees, this will be phased in over five years. Accordingly, each programme service licensee will only have to pay 20 per cent of the full cost in the first year (ie \$394,590), 40 per cent in the following year and so on.

"Applications for programme service licences will be invited in the next few weeks, with the aim of issuing licences in the fourth quarter of the year," he added.

End

#### Special marine traffic measures for fireworks display

\* \* \* \* \*

The Marine Department, Marine Police and the Fire Services Department will jointly implement a series of marine traffic arrangements in the Ma Wan and Kap Shui Mun Fairways to ensure safety during Lantau Link opening ceremony fireworks display on April 27 (Sunday).

At a press conference announcing the detailed arrangements this (Wednesday) afternoon, Marine Department's Senior Marine Officer/Harbour Patrol Section, Mr Chung Siu-man, said that the fireworks would be discharged from three barges moored in the Ma Wan Fairway north of the Tsing Ma Bridge.

Also, a boat flotilla will be formed as part of the opening ceremony at the south of the Tsing Ma Bridge.

Mr Chung said that an area encompassing the barges and boat flotilla would be established as a restricted area between 3 pm and 10.30 pm on April 27.

"The restricted area," he noted, "is bounded on the north by a straight line joining Ngau Lan Tsui, northeast corner of Ma Wan Island to the northwest corner of Tsing Yi Island.

"The south boundary is a straight line joining Tang Lung Chau to the Tsing Yi West coast, about 950 metres south and parallel to the Tsing Ma Bridge."

Mr Chung pointed out that during the closure period from 3 pm to 10.30 pm, no vessels other than Government craft, vessels directly involved in the fireworks display and boat flotilla or those which had obtained permission from the Director of Marine would be allowed to anchor or to be underway within the restricted area.

"Besides the restricted area, the waters between Ting Kau and Sham Tseng will be temporarily restricted to marine traffic from 7.45 pm to 8.20 pm, with no spectator vessels being allowed to remain in the area," Mr Chung said.

"A spectator vessel gathering area will be designated south of the restricted area and east of the Kap Shui Mun Fairway.

"Any spill over of spectator vessels will be directed to the Pun Shan Shek Anchorage," he added.

As the marine traffic off Tsuen Wan Public Pier was expected to be very heavy on April 27, Mr Chung advised that vessels should follow instructions from the Marine Police and if possible should use other landing facilities in Victoria Harbour.

He also reminded vessel operators that the marine traffic in the Kap Shui Mun Fairway would increase substantially due to the closure of the Ma Wan Fairway and that vessels transiting the Kap Shui Mun Fairway should proceed with caution and adjust speed so as to avoid unnecessary overtaking.

The Marine Department has published Marine Department Notices No.65 and No.70 of 1997 to give full details of the special marine traffic measures. Free copies of the notices are available from the Victoria Marine Office on the third floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Internet users can also get the notices by trying <http://www.info.gov.hk/mardep/index.htm> for the Marine Department homepage.

As for vessel operators Mr Chung advised those who were not familiar with the waters not proceed to the water areas in which vessels would encounter strong current and heavy traffic.

"Small vessels particularly those with no decking or of a length of less than five metres should not proceed to or remain in the water areas since such vessels were vulnerable to the wash from large vessels and were not easily detected by larger vessels," he said.

In addition, a master before proceeding on the voyage to view the fireworks display should make sure that:

- \* All persons know where the life saving appliances are and know how to put on lifejackets properly. A practical demonstration is recommended.
- \* All children wear lifejackets at all times.
- \* A list showing the names of all persons on board is available for immediate use in emergency.
- \* The vessel has not been overloaded its licensed passenger capacity.

All vessels are also asked to observe the regulations for preventing collisions at sea.

In the evening of the fireworks display, the safe speed should not exceed five knots while a proper look-out must be maintained at all times.

He said that cabin lights should be switched off while searchlights and those lights which would interfere with keeping a proper look-out should also not be used.

Mr Chung noted: "There will be a large number of Marine Department, Marine Police and Fire Services vessels identified by their flashing red or blue lights stationed or patrolling in the water areas."

Vessel masters should follow instructions originated from these vessels.

In the event that a vessel is in danger and requires assistance, its master can:

- \* Call the Marine Department on very high frequency radio telephone channel 16 using the call sign HONG KONG RESCUE, or on the telephone number 2545 0181;
- \* Phone the Marine Police at 2803 6241;
- \* Call 999; or
- \* Indicate the need of assistance using distress signals.

End

### Trade Director to visit Guangzhou

\* \* \* \* \*

A delegation led by the Director-General of Trade, Mr Alan Lai, left today (Wednesday) for a two-day visit to Guangzhou.

During the two-day visit on April 24 and 25, the delegation will call on officials of the Guangdong Commission of Foreign Economics Relations and Trade, Guangdong Customs, Guangdong Administration of Import and Export Commodity Inspection, and Guangdong Tax Bureau to exchange views on matters of mutual interest.

"I hope the visit will further enhance the trading relations between Guangdong and Hong Kong, and promote continued exchange of views and information on trade and economic co-operation," Mr Lai said before departure.

Mr Lai will be accompanied by officials from the Trade and Industry Branch and the Trade Department.

End

### Issuance of the Lantau Link Philatelic Numismatic Cover

\* \* \* \* \*

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announces today the launch of the Lantau Link Philatelic Numismatic Cover (PNC) which is issued, by the HKMA on behalf of the Government, to commemorate the opening of the Lantau Link.

The public is invited to apply from tomorrow (Thursday) until 1 May 1997 for the purchase of the PNC using application forms which appear in advertisements in major newspapers starting tomorrow.

This is Hong Kong's first PNC. It features a Brilliant Uncirculated HK\$10 coin with the design of a suspension bridge symbolising the smooth transition in 1997; and a first-day cover with a special Lantau Link stamp franked with a specially designed postmark (dated 18 May 1997).

"The PNC will be of great commemorative value. Only 30,000 sets will be available in Hong Kong and the worldwide issue limit is 50,000," said an HKMA spokesman.

The PNC will be sold in Hong Kong for HK\$188 each via public application.. Each Hong Kong Identity Card holder can apply for one PNC only and deadline for applications is Thursday, 1 May 1997.

In the event of over-subscription, a ballot will be held. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and they can purchase the PNCs at designated collection outlets starting from 22 May - the day the Lantau Link officially opens to traffic.

Proceeds from the sale of the PNCs after deducting the cost of issue will be used to fund selected projects for the benefit of the community.

End

#### Granting of restricted banking licence to Citibank International

\* \* \* \* \*

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said today (Wednesday) that Citibank International (CI) had been granted a restricted banking licence by the Monetary Authority under the Banking Ordinance on April 18, 1997.

CI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Citibank, N.A., one of the top five banks in the world and a significant participant in the Hong Kong market. CI is an "Edge Act" corporation supervised by the Federal Reserve Bank in the US. CI's business includes the provision of foreign trade finance to US residents and acceptance of deposits from non-US residents. Its head office is located in Miami and it has branches in Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The new branch in Hong Kong would take over the existing credit card business of Citibank's Hong Kong Branch.

After the grant of a restricted banking licence to CI, the number of restricted licence banks in Hong Kong has increased to 63.

End

Pre-service graduate teaching posts in aided primary schools

\*\*\*\*\*

The Education Department today (Wednesday) invited schools to apply for the pre-service quota for the appointment of graduate teachers in aided primary schools, including primary special schools and the primary section of combined-level special schools.

According to the ratio of teaching staff establishment, the 350 primary graduate teaching posts created for the 1997/98 school year will be apportioned to 325 and 25 for aided and government schools respectively.

In line with Education Commission Report No. 5 to attract new quality teachers to teach in primary schools, a total of 65 teaching posts, or 20 per cent of the 325 posts created will be reserved for the appointment of pre-service graduates in aided primary schools.

Including the 38 unfilled quota in the previous year, there will be 103 posts available for appointment of pre-service graduates in aided primary schools.

Applicants possessing a Hong Kong Bachelor of Education Degree in Primary Education (full-time) are eligible for the appointment by means of the pre-service quota.

To encourage schools to make full use of the pre-service quota provided, allocation of this type of quota and the quota to regrade serving teachers will be considered separately.

Schools getting the pre-service quota will not affect their opportunities of being allocated the quota for regrading serving teachers.

The department has issued an administration circular on details of application for pre-service quota to aided schools.

Another circular inviting application for quota to regrade serving teachers will be issued in May.

Schools wishing to acquire the pre-service quota should apply not later than June 2.

They will be notified of the result of the allocation by the end of June to facilitate the recruitment of teachers.

End

Warning against employing visitors

\* \* \* \* \*

A sub-contractor of a construction company received imprisonment sentences at Western Magistracy for employing six visitors from China, an Immigration Department spokesperson said today (Wednesday).

The 37-year-old defendant pleaded guilty to six charges of being the employer of a person not lawfully employable. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on each charge, to be run concurrently.

The six Two-way Permit visitors was each convicted of one count of taking up employment without the permission from the Director of Immigration. They were each sentenced to one-month imprisonment, suspended for 12 months.

Immigration officers took over the case from the police who raided a restaurant renovation site in Tai Po on April 13, 1997. The six visitors were found working with sand spade and moving construction debris. The sub-contractor and the visitors were then arrested for further enquiry.

Subsequent investigation showed that the six Chinese visitors arrived in Hong Kong between early March to early April. They were allowed to stay until late May to early June respectively. The sub-contractor admitted that even knowing the six were visitors to Hong Kong, he still recruited them to work. The six received free meals and gifts as rewards.

The Immigration spokesperson warned that it is an offence for anyone to employ someone who is not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is a fine of \$350,000 and imprisonment for three years.

"Visitors are not allowed to take up employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration," said the spokesperson.

"Those who breach the conditions of stay are liable to prosecution and upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for two years," added the spokesperson.

End

ACP Exhibition Centre to close for two days

\* \* \* \* \*

The Airport Core Programme Exhibition Centre at Castle Peak Road, the New Territories, will close on Saturday and Sunday (April 26 and 27) for preparation work for the Lantau Link Opening ceremony which will take place on Sunday (April 27).

As Monday is the usual day for closure of the centre, it will be re-open on Tuesday (April 29) from 10 am to 5 pm.

The New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office regrets any inconvenience that the temporary closure might cause to the public.

End



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*Robert Yip*

(Robert YIP)

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Wednesday, April 23, 1997

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SCA on Annual Report on HK

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Nicholas Ng, at the motion debate on "Annual Report on Hong Kong 1996 to Parliament" in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

The Annual Report on Hong Kong 1996 to Parliament, which is the subject of today's motion debate, is the twelfth in the series. The purpose of such reports is to keep Parliament informed of developments in Hong Kong on a regular basis, given its strong and continuing interest in the territory.

Under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, the UK Government is responsible for the administration of Hong Kong up to 30 June 1997. The publication of the Annual Report series demonstrates the UK's interest and commitment in Hong Kong.

Further, as a co-signatory of the Joint Declaration, the UK is fully committed to ensuring the implementation of the important principles embodied in the Joint Declaration, i.e. the principles of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong" and "a high degree of autonomy". The continued application of these principles will be fundamental to ensuring that Hong Kong maintains its prosperity and stability. The obligations on both the British and the Chinese Governments to ensure the continued application of these principles are well known to Members and the community. The preparation of the Annual Report on Hong Kong helps the UK Government keep track of important developments in Hong Kong, and ensure that their obligations to Hong Kong can be fully met.

Senior British officials have time and again stressed that the UK's commitment to Hong Kong, both political and moral, will not stop at the transition. In the 1996 Annual Report, the Foreign Secretary has specifically stated that the British Government and Parliament and all those in the UK with any kind of interest in Hong Kong will remain committed to Hong Kong over the next five decades.

Although the 1996 Report is the last in the series before the transition, the Foreign Secretary, in his statement issued on 20 December last year, had undertaken to report to Parliament on Hong Kong at six-monthly intervals, starting with a report on the period January to June 1997 and promised that these six-monthly reports would continue at least as long as the Joint Liaison Group existed, i.e. until the year 2000. The reports would focus on the work of the Joint Liaison Group, covering the implementation of the Joint Declaration, with special reference to the protection of human rights in Hong Kong.

Mr President, I would now like to comment on a couple of subjects raised by Members in the debate on which the Hong Kong Government has a special interest.

First, on the Provisional Legislature. Some members have touched upon the question of Provisional Legislature. The British Government's and Hong Kong Government's corporate position on the question of Provisional Legislature is well known and consistent all through.

There is no reason for the Provisional Legislature to get involved in any legislative process before 1 July 1997. As far as the British Government and the Hong Kong Government are concerned, any legislative process carried out by the Provisional Legislature before 1 July will have no validity in Hong Kong under our current constitutional framework. We have always made clear our view that any laws processed by the Provisional Legislature prior to 1 July could be vulnerable to legal challenge.

If indeed there were to be legal challenges, that would be a very bad way for the HKSAR to come into being. We therefore urge those who are in a position to make decisions on the Provisional Legislature to act with the greatest prudence in the interest of Hong Kong.

A few members have expressed concern on the preparation for the transition. Mr President, I would like to assure this Council that preparation for a smooth and successful transition is well on track. Through the Joint Liaison Group and other channels, much preparatory work has been done since 1984 to lay a sound, solid foundation for the SAR and the SAR Government. These include work which underpins the continuation of the rule of law, which ensures the continued protection of individual rights and freedoms, which ensures that Hong Kong will remain a leading international economic and financial centre, and which ensures that Hong Kong will continue to have an efficient and dedicated civil service.

For the few transitional issues which are still underway, the British Government and the Hong Kong Government will use their best endeavours to complete them to the maximum extent possible before 1 July.

Mr President, the full and faithful implementation of the Joint Declaration is a historical enterprise. I agree fully with the view expressed by some members that whilst the success of the transition needs the co-operation between Britain and China, we, the people of Hong Kong have a very important role to play. It is us, more than anyone else, who will shape Hong Kong's future and our own destiny. Members can rest assured that their views and concerns raised at this debate will be conveyed to the British Government.

End

Bankruptcy (Fees and Percentages) (Amendment) Order 1997

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Rafael Hui, in moving the Bankruptcy (Fees and Percentages) (Amendment) Order 1997, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move the first motion standing in my name on the Order Paper.

The Bankruptcy (Fees and Percentages) (Amendment) Order 1997, and the next three motions that I am going to move, namely the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Rules 1997, the Companies (Fees and Percentages) (Amendment) Order 1997, and the Companies (Winding-up) (Amendment) Rules 1997 have all been made by the Chief Justice. These are to increase the fees payable to the Official Receiver's Office in relation to proceedings in bankruptcy under the Bankruptcy Ordinance and in the winding-up of companies under the Companies Ordinance.

The Bankruptcy (Fees and Percentages) (Amendment) Order 1997 deals with 13 fees and charges in respect of bankruptcies. Most of them were last revised in February 1996. With a few exceptions, we propose to revise them generally in line with the increase in costs due to inflation over the period as calculated by the movement of the Government Consumption Expenditure Deflator (GCED). The actual fee revisions will in some cases differ slightly from the relevant rate of 8.2% due to the need to round fees up or down so as to facilitate collection. It should be stressed that the size of the increases when expressed in dollar terms is small.

Last year we proposed to deal with one or two fees that had at that time not been increased since 1988 by bringing them up to date in phases over 5 years. In this second year we therefore propose increasing by 20% the maximum fee payable to the Official Receiver in each bankruptcy for specified payments of money out of the Bankruptcy Estates Account.

The expected revenue from the fee items being revised represents only around 13% of the Official Receiver's total revenue. This is because the majority of his revenue is derived from fees which are calculated according to fixed percentages, based on the realization of assets, dividends paid out and interest on bank deposits. The total amount of additional income from the proposed increases in bankruptcy fees and charges is estimated to be about \$0.33 million per annum. This represents an average increase of just 1.7% when expressed as a percentage of the total bankruptcy income, estimated to be \$20.2 million for 1997-98.

Due to the nature of insolvencies, the amount of fees and charges collected presently falls far short of the costs incurred by the Official Receiver's Office. In the financial year 1997-98, the total revenue is estimated to be \$75.5 million at current fee levels, representing only 36.8% of the total expenditure. The estimated cost recovery rate will be increased only marginally to 37.2% even after the proposed fee increases. The low cost recovery rate is due mainly to the fact that approximately 72% of insolvency cases have realizable assets of less than \$50,000, which is insufficient to meet the costs involved.

The level of fee increases proposed takes careful account of the ability of those who are required to pay the fees to bear additional charges. For this reason, I am not recommending more substantial revisions which might otherwise be justified, and, as I have already indicated, the proposed increases are mainly to prevent, in general, the current level of cost recovery from further deterioration, rather than to enhance, in any significant way, the proportion of cost recovery.

Mr President, I beg to move.

End

#### Companies (Fees and Percentages) (Amendment) Order 1997

\*\*\*\*\*

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Rafael Hui, in moving the Bankruptcy (Fees and Percentages) (Amendment) Order 1997, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move the third motion standing in my name on the Order Paper.

The Companies (Fees and Percentages) (Amendment) Order 1997 deals with the 11 fees and charges applicable to company windings-up. All of them were last revised in February 1996. As with the related fees under the Bankruptcy (Fees and Percentages) (Amendment) Order 1997, we propose to increase these fees generally in line with inflation to cover increases in costs. The one exception relates to the maximum fee for payments of money out of the Companies Liquidation Account. As in the case of payments from the Bankruptcy Estates Account we propose to increase the ceiling by 20% as part of a 5-year phased programme to bring this item up to date, as prior to last year it had not been revised since 1988.

The total amount of additional fee income from the proposed increase in fees and charges for company windings-up is estimated to be \$0.36 million per annum. This represents an average increase of just 0.8% when expressed as a percentage of the total liquidation income, estimated to be \$46.8 million for 1997-98.

Mr President, I beg to move.

End

### Mutual legal assistance in Criminal Matters Bill

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Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, in moving the second reading of the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill be read a second time.

Concerns about the escalation of transnational crime and the need for greater international cooperation to combat serious crime have resulted in a movement towards the establishment of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters (MLA) arrangements. Such arrangements, embodied in bilateral or multilateral agreements, ensure reciprocity and greatly enhance international cooperation for the control of criminality. With the agreement of the Chinese side in the Joint Liaison Group, we are establishing a network of bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters which will remain in force beyond 30 June 1997. So far, we have signed agreements with Australia and the US.

The Bill provides the appropriate legal framework to enable Hong Kong to respond to a full range of requests for assistance comprehended by the new MLA agreements. The purpose is to enhance our cooperation with third countries in the investigation and prosecution of criminal offences including proceedings relating to confiscating the proceeds of crime. Specifically, the Bill covers the following kinds of assistance -

- \* taking of evidence;
- \* searching for and seizing items which are relevant to criminal matters;
- \* producing documentary evidence relevant to criminal matters;

- \* transferring persons (including prisoners) to other jurisdictions to provide assistance (e.g. by giving evidence);
- \* confiscating the proceeds of crime;
- \* serving documents.

The Bill contains provisions to safeguard the rights of the persons involved in criminal proceedings. The Bill stipulates the following grounds for refusing requests for assistance -

- \* the request relates to an offence of a political character;
- \* the request relates to an offence only under military law;
- \* the request will result in a person being prejudiced on account of his race, religion, nationality or political opinions;
- \* the request relates to the prosecution of a person for an offence in respect of which the person has been convicted, acquitted or pardoned in the requesting party, i.e. double jeopardy;
- \* the criminal conduct in question would not have constituted an offence in Hong Kong if it had occurred there, i.e. double criminality.

Assistance may also be refused if the offence for which assistance is requested is punishable by death under the law of the requesting jurisdiction, unless satisfactory assurances are given that the death penalty will not be carried out.

Mr President, I would like to stress that the Bill is the key to the implementation of the MLA programme in criminal matters. The Bill is important in order that we can bring our new agreements into operation upon enactment. We could not introduce the Bill earlier than 9 April while the necessary consultations were being conducted in the Joint Liaison Group. Now that the Chinese side in the Joint Liaison Group have confirmed their agreement to the Bill at the last Joint Liaison Group (JLG XXXIX) on 21 March 1997, our immediate task ahead is to ensure that the Bill can be enacted as soon as possible before the handover. The early enactment of the Bill would send a powerful message to our law enforcement partners that we are committed to fighting international crime by strengthening cooperation in matters of criminal justice and international law enforcement. I therefore urge Members' urgent consideration and support for the Bill.

Thank you, Mr President.

End

## Second reading of Smoking Amendment Bill

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Following is a speech by the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, in moving the second reading of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill be read the second time.

The Bill aims to introduce further restrictions on tobacco advertising as well as on the use, sale and promotion of tobacco products. This represents a further step in Government's anti-smoking initiatives.

We propose to ban tobacco display advertisements, which include posters; painted, printed or photographic displays on walls, hoardings and public transport; signs on rooftops and projections from buildings; lightboxes on-street and inside MTR stations, etc. This kind of advertisement is prominent, pervasive and has a long-term visual effect on passers-by. The ban will help to reduce public exposure to images which induce smoking. We propose a two-year grace period before implementation to allow existing contracts to run out.

We propose to introduce a new mechanism to facilitate the setting up of statutory no smoking areas in restaurants, department stores, shopping malls, supermarkets and banks. Any manager of such premises can, if he so wishes, designate any part of the premises under his control as a statutory no smoking area by displaying a prescribed sign. The manager will then have power under the law to stop people from smoking in the designated areas.

To make tobacco products less accessible to young people, we intend to prohibit the sale of cigarettes in packets of less than 20 sticks or through the use of vending machines.

To follow the trend overseas, we propose to lower the maximum permissible tar yield in cigarettes from 20 mg to 17 mg. At the same time, we will change the existing requirement to indicate the tar group on cigarette packets and advertisements to requiring indication of the tar and nicotine yields instead. This again follows overseas practice.

Apart from advertising, tobacco promotion can also take the form of giving cigarettes out as free samples, attaching free or discounted-price items to tobacco products or exchange of empty packages for gifts or entry to various events. We propose to ban all such forms of tobacco promotion.

Subject to the passage of the Bill, I will amend the Smoking (Public Health) (Notices) Order to provide for stronger and more prominent health warnings.

Government believes that with all these measures in place, the public's exposure to the tobacco industry's persuasion to smoke will be reduced. This will translate into reduced death and ill-health from smoking-related illness. Public health will also be enhanced through reduction of tar in cigarettes and the establishment of no smoking areas.

Mr President, I beg to move.

End

#### Bill to outlaw family status discrimination

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Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Stella Hung, in moving the second reading of the Family Status Discrimination Bill in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Family Status Discrimination Bill be read a second time.

In line with our step-by-step approach in promoting equal opportunities for all, we conducted a public consultation exercise last year to solicit public views on the extent of the problem of discrimination on the ground of family status and the measures which could be taken to enhance equal opportunities between persons of different family status. A total of 8,895 submissions were received with an overwhelming support for the legislative option.

The present Bill is a direct response to these opinions of the community. When enacted, it will enhance equal opportunities for persons of different family status, for example, single parents and any persons who have responsibility for the care of an elderly or a disabled family member.

After the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) and the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, this is the third anti-discrimination Bill. As with the two Ordinances, our objective is to draw up a piece of legislation which best serves the needs of Hong Kong and at the same time, is readily acceptable by the public.

"Family status" is defined, under Clause 2 of the Bill, as the status of having the responsibility for the care of an immediate family member. An immediate family member must be related to the person concerned by blood, marriage, adoption or affinity. The proposed definition, therefore, includes relationship between husband and wife, parent and child as well as near relatives. Co-habitation, however, would fall outside the definition. This takes into account of the strong public objection received, during the public consultation, to giving legal recognition to de facto spouse relationship.

By virtue of its Clause 5, the Bill renders it unlawful to discriminate against any person, on the ground of his or her family status, in specified areas of activity similar to those covered by the SDO. These areas include employment, education, the provision of goods and services, as well as the disposal and management of premises.

To administer the proposed legislation, we propose in Clause 44 of the Bill to extend the remit of the Equal Opportunities Commission to handle complaints of discrimination on the ground of family status and to promote equal opportunities for persons with family status. On the judicial mechanism, the court may exercise similar powers as provided for under the SDO. Like the SDO, by virtue of Clause 54 of the Bill, civil claims for damages can be filed through district court proceedings. We believe that the measures proposed in the Bill would provide an efficient and accessible avenue of redress for the aggrieved.

We are conscious that for any anti-discrimination legislation to be acceptable to the community, we have to strike a balance between equality for all on the one hand and the practical needs of the society on the other. Therefore, like the SDO, we have provided for exceptions in respect of certain matters which might otherwise be rendered unlawful by the Bill. In relation to employment matters, employers would be allowed to afford special benefits to suit the special needs of employees with a particular family status. By virtue of this exception provided for under Clause 36 of the Bill, an employer is allowed to provide, for example, an education allowance for married employees with children only.

In order to give small employers time to familiarise with the legislation and if necessary, to adapt their existing practices to comply with the legislation, Clause 8 of the Bill also provides for a three-year grace period for business establishments with not more than five employees.

Also, we have proposed in Clauses 42 and 18 of the Bill that the New Territories Ordinance and the Primary One Admission System be exempted from the operation of the Bill.

The Family Status Discrimination Bill reflects the community's aspirations on how we should proceed to achieve equal opportunities for persons of different family status. We have neither moved hastily nor tried to go beyond the levels which the community at large want us to go. We have prepared a bill which is suitable for Hong Kong and equally important, we have proposed to extend the jurisdiction of the Equal Opportunities Commission, and independent statutory body, to ensure the effective implementation of the legislation.

The enactment of the Bill will provide the means by which members of the community, irrespective of family status, will be able to make the most of their potential to participate fully in all areas of activity. We are convinced that this Bill, which is our considered response to demonstrated public demand, will serve Hong Kong's needs well.

Mr President, with these remarks, I commend the Bill to this Council.

End

#### Resumption of the second reading on the Coroners Bill

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Following is a speech by the Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews, in the resumption of the second reading debate on the Coroners Bill in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

As I explained when I introduced this Bill into this Council in February last year, the objective of this Bill is to repeal and replace the existing Coroners Ordinance in order to give effect to the majority of the recommendations contained in the Report on Coroners issued by the Law Reform Commission in 1987.

I would first of all like to thank Members of the Bills Committee, especially its Chairman, Dr the Honourable Leong Che-hung, for their hard work and thorough examination of this important Bill. And also I would like to say that I have listened very carefully and taken notice of the remarks put to the Council this afternoon by Dr Leong, by the Honourable Albert Ho and will reflect on them at the extent that they are not already covered in this Bill and the Committee Stage amendments. Mr President, the Administration has responded positively to most of the ideas put forward by members of the Bills Committee and by the medical and the legal professions. As a result, I will be moving a number of Committee Stage Amendments later this afternoon.

There is only one amendment in respect of which agreement has not been reached between the Administration and some members of the Bills Committee. I have listened with particular care to the arguments advanced by Dr the Honourable C H Leong and the Honourable Albert Ho but I have to say that I remain wholly unconvinced of the amendment. The amendment relates to the situation where a coroner has decided not to hold an inquest into the death of a person. I just ask members to bear in mind that situation. This is a situation where the coroners has decided not to hold an inquest and in that situation a person with a proper interest in the death (such as a family member) wishes to obtain a copy of the police report about the death.

The Administration agrees with the suggestion that, in such circumstances, the coroner should supply a copy of the death report. We do not have a problem with that. However, when this is done, it is important that the privacy of witnesses is protected. For this reason, the Committee Stage amendment that I will move later this afternoon, adding a new clause 12A to the Bill, provides that the coroner must delete the personal particulars of any witness from the copy of the death report supplied, unless the witness has expressly consented to the disclosure of those particulars. Provision is also made for the Police to advise a witness, who is making a statement in relation to the death of a person, that the statement may be provided to properly interested persons.

As we have heard, the Chairman of the Bills Committee, Dr Leong Che-hung, will propose a Committee Stage Amendment to add a new clause 12A which mirrors the Administration's, except that it contains no requirement to delete the personal particulars of a witness if no express consent is given to their disclosure.

Dr Leong has argued that family members of the deceased person should be entitled to ascertain the personal particulars of witnesses even if they have not agreed to those particulars being disclosed. He contends that those particulars may help the family members to assess whether the witness statements are reliable; to contact the witnesses if they need further information; to judge the fairness of the decision not to hold an inquest; and, if necessary, to persuade the Attorney General to require an inquest to be held.

The Administration accepts that the disclosure of the personal particulars of witnesses to family members of the deceased, or to other properly interested persons, could be helpful to them. However, one must not overlook the legitimate interests of the witnesses themselves. Whilst they may be willing to give a statement for the purpose of the coroner's investigation into the death, they may not wish to become involved with family members of the deceased. There may be good reasons for this. For example, in some situations, witnesses might fear for their personal safety if their identity is revealed to family members of the deceased. This is not a fanciful or theoretical thought. What if the deceased were killed by a family member? If the witness' personal particulars were to be disclosed in such a situation, this would undermine all the progress in respect of witness protection that has been achieved in recent years.

It has also been argued that, if an inquest had been ordered, the personal particulars of the witness would have been revealed publicly, so the witness cannot complain if they are disclosed where no inquest is held. But the personal particulars of a witness at a coroner's inquest are not always publicly revealed. If, for example, the witness has fears for his or her personal safety, the coroner can take steps to protect the anonymity of the witness. The same applies if a criminal trial is held in respect of the death.

The situation under consideration is similar to that where witness statements are obtained for the purposes of criminal or civil litigation involving the Administration. If the case proceeds to trial, personal particulars of witnesses may be revealed publicly. But if the case does not proceed to trial, witness statements would not be released by the Administration to a third party for other purposes except with the consent of the witness or by order of the court, for example, by way of discovery.

The Administration believes that it is important that the personal privacy of a witness is adequately protected and that a person has a right to give, or not to give, consent to his personal data being disclosed otherwise than for the purpose of an inquest. The Administration cannot, therefore, support Dr Leong's proposal, and I urge members to support the Committee Stage amendment that I will shortly be moving.

Mr President, with these remarks, and subject to the Committee Stage Amendments proposed by the Administration, I commend the Coroners Bill to Honourable Members.

End

Freight Containers (Safety) Bill

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Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Kwan Wing-wah, in resuming the second reading debate on the Freight Containers (Safety) Bill in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I would like to thank Dr the Honourable Samuel Wong and the Bills Committee for their thorough and detailed discussions with the Administration on the Freight Containers (Safety) Bill and their support to the Bill.

The purpose of the Bill is to implement in Hong Kong the International Convention for Safe Containers 1972. The main objective is to safeguard the construction and safety of containers used in Hong Kong. Based on the Convention, the Bill sets out requirements for the testing, inspection and approval of containers, and requires the owner of, or the person responsible for, a container to ensure compliance with these requirements.

In the course of examining the Bill, Members of the Bills Committee expressed concern over two issues, namely the responsibilities of container vehicle drivers if a container being transported was found to be unsafe by the authority, and the scope of the Bill which is limited to the structural safety of freight containers.

On the first point, I would like to reiterate that clause 4 of the Bill specifies that the owner of a container would have the responsibility for ensuring compliance with the safety requirements under the Bill. A lessee or bailee would only be responsible if there is an agreement providing for exercise of the owner's responsibility by the lessee or bailee. A container vehicle driver will have no responsibility other than to provide information regarding the identity of the owner of a container if a contravention is found. The Administration will take action to raise the awareness of container vehicle drivers in this respect.

On the second point, as the purpose of the Bill is to give effect to the International Convention on Safe Containers 1972, the scope of the Bill is confined to the structural safety of containers. The Administration will continue its efforts to improve the safe transportation of containers in Hong Kong.

The Bills Committee and the Administration have also considered some proposed amendments to the Bill submitted jointly by terminal operators and agreed that the Bill should be amended accordingly. The suggestions seek to clarify the application of clause 17(2) and propose that a warrant from the Magistrate should be required if the Director of Marine wishes to examine the inside of a sealed container.

At Committee Stage I will move a few amendments to the Bill which have been agreed by the Bills Committee. I shall explain in detail the reasons for the amendments at that point.

Thank you, Mr President.

End

Freight Containers (Safety) Bill: committee stage

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Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Kwan Wing-wah, in moving the proposed Committee Stage amendments on the Freight Containers (Safety) Bill in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr Chairman,

I move that clauses 17 and 19, and Schedule 1 be amended as set out in the paper circulated to Members.

The amendment to clause 17(2) seeks to clarify the application of this clause. The amendment puts beyond doubt that a bailee or lessee will not be required to pay to the Director of Marine the costs of detaining a container unless there is an agreement made providing for exercise of the owner's responsibility by the bailee or lessee of this container.

As regards the proposed new clause 19(5), the main purpose is to protect the interest of terminal operators by specifying that the inside of a sealed container can only be inspected by the Director of Marine or any appointed inspectors when a warrant has been issued by the Magistrate. That said, the Director of Marine and the appointed inspectors can only inspect the inside of a sealed container when there are strong justifications, for instance, when there is sufficient evidence for suspecting that a container is unsafe for use due to distortion of the internal structures of the container.

The other proposed amendments to Schedule 1 seeks to remove any possible discrepancies between our local legislation and the International Convention for Safe Containers 1972.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

End

Freight Containers (Safety) Bill: third reading

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Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Kwan Wing-wah, in moving the third reading of the Freight Containers (Safety) Bill in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

The Freight Containers (Safety) Bill has passed through Committee with amendments. I move that this Bill be read the third time and do pass.

End

Weapons of mass destruction Bill

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Following is the speech by the Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, in moving the second reading of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (Control of Provision of Services) Bill in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Weapons of Mass Destruction (Control of Provision of Services) Bill be read the second time.

At present, Hong Kong imposes licensing controls on the import, export, transshipment, and in some cases, transit of strategic commodities. These commodities cover weapons, including weapons of mass destruction, and also a wide range of dual-use high-technology goods capable of, but not specifically designed for, military purposes. Examples of these goods are integrated circuits, high-performance computers, telecommunication and information security equipment. The main objective of our control system is to monitor the inflow and outflow of strategic commodities and to ensure that they are used only for legitimate purposes. The Import and Export Ordinance and the Import and Export (Strategic Commodities) Regulations under the Ordinance provide the legal basis for such controls.

The undisrupted supply of high-technology goods to Hong Kong is essential for maintaining our status as a regional centre of finance, banking, telecommunications and trade, and for the on-going technological upgrading of our manufacturing industries. So far, our performance in the area of strategic trade controls has been regarded as exemplary by our trading partners and we have gained relative easy access to high-technology products. In order to maintain their effectiveness in this fast changing field, we have to keep our system and legislation under constant review and follow closely the highest standard of control accepted by the international community.

In view of the risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, a number of international regimes have been established to prevent their proliferation. In addition to control over the import and export of these weapons, some key members of these regimes have introduced legislation on the provision of services which assist the proliferation of these weapons. We have studied their examples and come to the conclusion that legislation on the brokerage of deals of weapons of mass destruction is an essential element of a comprehensive system of strategic trade controls.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction (Control of Provision of Services) Bill makes it an offence for a person to provide services in Hong Kong if he believes or reasonably suspects that the services may or will assist the development, production, acquisition or stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction in Hong Kong or elsewhere. Provision of services is defined broadly to cover different sorts of assistance including the provision of work of a professional nature and the provision of financial assistance. The term "weapons of mass destruction" is defined to cover biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. Our proposed scope of control is similar to that provided in the legislation of our trading partners. Committing an offence under the Bill will incur a maximum penalty of imprisonment of seven years and unlimited fine.

With the introduction of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (Control of Provision of Services) Bill, we are moving one further step to perfect our system of control, necessary to ensure the supply of high-tech goods to support our commerce and industry. I hope Members will support what we are aiming to achieve through this Bill. Thank you, Mr President.

End

Buildings (Amendment) Bill 1997

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Following is the speech by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, in resuming the second reading of the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move the Second Reading of the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 1997.

The Bill seeks to improve in a number of ways the appointment and composition of the disciplinary boards for authorised persons, registered structural engineers, registered general building contractors and registered specialist contractors under the Buildings Ordinance.

First, the proposed amendment seeks to remove any perception of unfairness arising from the dual role served by the Building Authority in relation to disciplinary proceedings against building professionals and contractors. The current practice is that the Building Authority is the chairman of, and appoints members to, the disciplinary boards. He is also responsible for submitting cases to the boards. It is proposed that the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands will take up the appointment function. Furthermore, the boards should be chaired by persons elected from among members of the disciplinary boards.

Second, the proposed amendment will modernise the administration of the disciplinary boards. Apart from the proposed election of the chairman, we propose that a lay person be nominated to each disciplinary board to widen the perspective of the board. As a result of the detachment of the Building Authority from the composition of the boards, self-regulation among building professionals will be encouraged.

I am aware of Members' concern over the introduction of bills of this nature at this stage of the LegCo session. However, I hope Members would appreciate that our briefing to the relevant building professional institutes and contractors' associations on the proposals could not be completed until late March. We were therefore unable to introduce the Bill to the Council earlier.

Mr President, I should be grateful if Members would give the Bill their favourable consideration and support it.

End

Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund (Amendment) Bill 1997

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Following is a speech by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in moving the third reading of the Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund (Amendment) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

The Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund (Amendment) Bill has passed through Committee without amendments. I move that the Bill be read the third time and does pass.

End

Introduction of Government Minute

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Following is the speech by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, in introducing the Government Minute in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

Laid on the table today is the Government Minute responding to Report No. 27 of the Public Accounts Committee. The minute sets out the measures the Government has taken, or is planning to take, on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report.

The Hon Eric Li, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, spoke in this Council on 29 January 1997 when tabling the Report. I would like to respond to some of the points he made.

Progress on Outstanding Issues

Mr Li expressed concern about the progress we made on a number of the PAC's earlier recommendations and urged us to take speedier action.

I wish to assure Members that the Administration attaches great importance to the recommendations of the PAC, and I am pleased that our positive attitude is appreciated by the Committee. The pace at which we can resolve an issue depends, to a large extent, on the nature of the problems and the practicability of the solutions. On occasions, we may need to modify earlier proposals and to seek alternative remedial or improvement measures as the situations evolve.

On the management of community centres and community halls to which Mr Li referred, the intended transfer of these facilities from the Home Affairs Department to the Social Welfare Department has not yet taken place because resources have had to be devoted to other more pressing welfare needs. In the meantime, Home Affairs Department has been working with the local communities in promoting the use of these facilities which are now generally better utilised. In the light of operating experience, we are reconsidering whether the management responsibilities of the community centres and community halls should remain with the Home Affairs Department.

We have reviewed progress on the two other outstanding issues highlighted by Mr Li, namely "police indebtedness" and "abuse of the policy governing registration and licensing of goods vehicles". Members will note from the Government Minute that we have, in fact, taken positive steps to address the problems and have achieved noticeable results.

#### Advances to UNHCR

In his speech, Mr Li espoused the obligations of the British Government towards Hong Kong over the Vietnamese refugee/migrant issue. He also asked the Financial Secretary to immediately cease charging to advance accounts further expenses incurred for the care and maintenance of VMs, and to seek Finance Committee's prior approval for such expenditure.

The British Government has responded to the views of the PAC on the obligations of the British Government towards Hong Kong in resolving the Vietnamese refugee/migrant problem. This is given in paragraph 64 of the Government Minute. I wish to assure Members that we shall continue to liaise closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to securing full repayment of the debt as soon as possible. With a diminishing VM population, and our aim to close all VM detention centres within 1997, we see merit in retaining the status quo of meeting the expenses for the care and maintenance of VMs through advance accounts.

#### Quarter for Commissioner of Police

I now turn to Mr Li's remarks concerning the allocation of a quarter to the Commissioner of Police. We firmly believe that the present Commissioner of Police, and his successors, should live in government-owned accommodation. We made our various decisions on the allocation and designation of this quarter as a post-tied departmental quarter in full knowledge of all relevant information - the nature of the Commissioner's official duties and responsibilities, the suitability of the quarter for the purpose, and the fact that the incumbent Commissioner had received a housing allowance under the Home Purchase Scheme.

There is no question of any preferential treatment being granted or any breach of the prevention of double housing benefit policy. We note the PAC's views on this quarter. However, we consider that the action taken to allocate this quarter for use by the Commissioner of Police as a post-tied quarter is fully in line with the approved policy. We therefore do not agree that the Commissioner should be asked to vacate his quarter or pay for any double housing benefits.

#### Co-ordination within Government

Mr Li suggested that a number of the situations criticised by the Director of Audit have arisen due to a lack of co-ordination amongst Government branches and departments, or of a mechanism to resolve inter-portfolio disagreements. We do, in fact, place heavy emphasis on co-ordination and lateral communication within the Administration. Apart from the less formal arrangements, we have across the Government a range of standing and ad hoc committees set up for this purpose. I myself chair a number of these committees which Policy Secretaries attend. So Members could rest assured that there are adequate and well-established fora within the Administration for co-ordinating Government business and for resolving any differences in opinion. We nonetheless welcome the PAC's observations which usefully remind us to give the question of co-ordination the full attention it deserves.

Consultants

Finally, I must reiterate a point I have put to Members before, and that is that the PAC's observation on the Government's "habitual dependency on external consultants" is unfounded. The Administration uses consultants only when there is a demonstrable case for it. These reasons include insufficient staff to undertake work within the timeframe required, lack of certain specialist professional expertise, or a need to bring in new concepts for planning, design or operation of facilities. I wish to assure Members that departments do and will continue to look critically at the need to employ consultants and will ensure that the necessary briefs and guidance to the consultants are properly drawn up and complied with.

Mr President, the Government is committed to working closely with the Audit Department and the Public Accounts Committee in achieving our common objective of the more efficient use of public funds. I am confident that the measures we have taken, or are planning to take, will go a long way towards this end.

End

Special arrangements for fireworks display

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Following is a question by the Hon Yeung Sum and an oral reply by the Secretary for Works, Mr Kwong Hon-sang, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

It is learnt that on 4 March this year the Executive Council endorsed the plan to hold a grand fireworks display on 27 April this year as one of the functions to mark the opening of the Lantau Link. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the estimated number of spectators viewing the fireworks display on site, together with the estimated number of spectators at each viewing point;

- (b) whether the District Boards concerned, Members of this Council and members of the Regional Council as well as the local residents' organisations had been consulted before the above decision was made; if so, what their views were; if not, why not; and
- (c) given that the decision to hold the fireworks display has been widely criticized by the public, and following the meetings which the authorities concerned have held separately with this Council and the District Boards, what improvements have been made in regard to the overall arrangements for traffic, public safety and crowd dispersal?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) It is difficult to estimate the precise number of people turning up at various viewing points to watch the fireworks display. Many factors, such as the weather and other attractive events concurrently held elsewhere, may well affect the actual turnout. However, we estimate that up to 300,000 spectators may turn up at the pedestrianised section of Castle Peak Road between Siu Lam and Hoi On Road, which is the prime spot for viewing the fireworks display.
- (b) The application for the staging of a fireworks display as part of the Lantau Link Opening Ceremony was approved after having taken into account a number of factors including likely public reaction and safety requirements. When the proposal was first submitted to Government, the Administration's assessment was that this would be acceptable to the community as a whole, subject to satisfactory arrangements being worked out on crowd control, traffic arrangements, and transport facilities in consultation with relevant District Boards and affected local residents.

We started consultation with the relevant District Boards and the Airport Consultative Committee on a preliminary proposal on crowd control, traffic, and public transportation arrangements in March. We have now just completed the consultation exercise. In overall terms, the public is generally supportive of the fireworks display but would like to have further improvements to the Administration's preliminary proposal on crowd control, traffic, and public transportation arrangements, with a view to minimizing inconvenience to affected residents and to expediting the crowd dispersal after the fireworks display.

- (c) As pointed out in my answer to part (b), it has always been our intention to consult the District Boards concerned on crowd control, traffic and public transportation arrangements for the fireworks display. In the light of comments received, we have now made the following arrangements to minimize inconvenience to affected residents:
- 1) Closure of Ma Wan Channel will now be deferred from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm by one hour.
  - 2) The controlled diversion of traffic from Tuen Mun Road has been deferred from 7:30 pm to 7:40 pm until the end of the fireworks display. In addition, to minimize inconvenience to residents of Tuen Mun/Yuen Long, franchised buses will still be allowed to use Tuen Mun Road during this diversion period.
  - 3) A special KMB service plying between Tuen Mun and Sheung Shui will operate from 3:00 pm, in addition to the regular Sheung Shui/Yuen Long service, to provide Tuen Mun and Yuen Long residents with another alternative route.
  - 4) Green Minibuses serving Castle Peak Road will be allowed to use Tuen Mun Road so that their services could be maintained until 7:30 pm.
  - 5) An additional kaito service between Ma Wan and Tsuen Wan will operate from 5:00 pm to 11:30 pm except for the period between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm when the marine channel in the vicinity of Sham Tseng and Ting Kau north of Ma Wan has to be cleared for the fireworks display.
  - 6) More than 25,000 copies of letters on detailed arrangements on traffic and public transportation have been issued through District Offices to affected residents so that they have the information necessary to plan their activities on the day well in advance.
  - 7) 180,000 copies of guidance note on dispersal arrangements will be distributed to spectators when they enter the pedestrianized section of Castle Peak Road so that they can plan their return journey beforehand.

- 8) Telephone numbers have been made available for members of the public in case they have enquiries.
- 9) Emergency Centres have also been set up at the Airport Core Programme Exhibition Centre at Ting Kau and the public carpark opposite Sham Tseng Pier to offer assistance to members of the public. First Aid posts will be set up at various strategic locations on Castle Peak Road to cater for emergencies.

End

#### Further studies on Yam O development

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Following is a question by the Hon Samuel Wong Ping-wai and an oral reply by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

At the time the MTRC was given the go ahead for the construction of the Airport Railway, the MTRC indicated that in respect of the Lantau Line from Kowloon to Tung Chung, two new stations would be built at Tai Ho Wan and Yam O on Lantau, and that reclamation works would start soon to facilitate the development of two new towns on Lantau. As the Lantau Line is scheduled to become operational by June 1998, will the Government inform this Council whether plans to carry out the reclamation works in these two areas have been implemented?

Reply:

Mr President,

In accordance with the recommendations of the Lantau Port Development Study and the North Lantau Development Study, there will be four Mass Transit Railway stations, respectively, at Yam O, Tai Ho, Tung Chung Town Centre and Tung Chung West to serve the port and non-port facilities at Northeast Lantau and the Tung Chung-Tai Ho New Town.

The Yam O station will serve the port and non-port facilities at Northeast Lantau whereas the Tai Ho station will be part of Phase Four of the New Town development.

When the Lantau Line from Central to Tung Chung is commissioned in June 1998, only one station on Lantau Island will be required, namely the Tung Chung Town Centre station. The Tung Chung West, Yam O and Tai Ho stations will not be required. Nevertheless, advanced works for Yam O and Tai Ho stations including reclamation, site formation and the laying of tracks have been completed.

Further studies for the remaining phases of the New Town and Yam O will soon commence to investigate into and plan for the development of these two areas. The programme of construction of the Tung Chung West, Tai Ho and Yam O stations will tie in with the residential and working population build-up to be recommended in the studies, and subject to the agreement between Government and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation.

End

#### Unemployment statistics

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Following is a question by the Hon Chan Wing-chan, and an oral reply by the Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Rafael Hui, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding the unemployment rate figures and relevant statistical data released by the Government each quarter, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the reasons for the big discrepancies between the Government's unemployment figures and the findings of surveys conducted by a number of academic institutions and non-government organizations;
- (b) how the terms "unemployed persons among the economically active population" and the term "persons wishing to find employment among the economically inactive population" are defined, and what the differences between the two terms are;

- (c) whether the unemployment figures in narrow terms (U1) and the unemployment figures in broad terms (U2, i.e. with persons wishing to find employment among the economically inactive population taken into account) will be released on a regular basis, so that the public can have a better understanding of the actual employment situation; and
- (d) whether the Government will carry out studies on the employment situation and the quality of life of the low-income groups in the territory?

Reply:

- (a) Results of certain surveys on labour force and unemployment conducted recently by some academic institutions and non-government organizations showed that there were considerable discrepancies between their findings and the official unemployment statistics published by the Government. The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), as the department responsible for compiling official statistics, is naturally interested in these surveys and would like to obtain more details on their methodology and various technical details, because the validity of survey findings hinges crucially upon the methodology used. Nonetheless, such details were often not provided in the survey reports. Also, they could not be readily obtained from the researchers concerned even upon our enquiry. This is the case for the recent survey conducted by the three academic researchers. Thus, in the absence of sufficient information, at the present moment it is difficult for us to provide precise comments on these surveys and their results.
- (b) The population can be divided into two sub-groups according to their economic activity status, viz. the labour force and the economically inactive population.

The labour force comprises the employed population and the unemployed population.

The employed population comprises all employed persons. In the General Household Survey (GHS), a person aged 15 or over who was at work for pay/profit or has had formal job attachment during the 7 days before enumeration is classified as employed.

On the other hand, a person aged 15 or over will be classified as unemployed if the person concerned fulfils the following three criteria simultaneously:

- (1) has not had a job and has not performed any work for pay or profit during the 7 days before enumeration; and
- (2) has been available for work during the 7 days before enumeration; and
- (3) has sought work [i.e. must have taken active steps to seek work and not just passively "wishing (or willing) to take up a job"] during the 30 days before enumeration.

Notwithstanding the above, a person aged 15 or over without a job, has been available for work but has not sought work because he/she believed that work was not available is also classified as unemployed. In this case, the person is regarded as a discouraged worker.

Persons not meeting the criteria for classification as employed or unemployed are classified as economically inactive.

Given the above definitions, economically inactive persons are not to be confused with unemployed persons. It is reckoned that there could be certain people amongst the economically inactive population who might consider entering the labour force if jobs of relatively favourable terms to themselves (e.g. high pay, flexible working hours and proximity of workplace to home) were offered. But these requirements are, more often than not, not based on locally prevailing terms and hence cannot be met in the labour market. According to the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), these economically inactive persons whose willingness to work is conditional upon the offer of specific terms and conditions of employment are still within the economically inactive population. As such, they should not be classified as part of the labour force, nor should they be classified as unemployed. This treatment is in line with the international standard and is likewise adopted by other statistically advanced countries.

- (c) The Government has no plan to compile another set of unemployment statistics. In fact, there is no such need. As I explained in part (b) above, the so-called 'unemployment figures in broad terms (U2)' are not unemployment figures, and as such the term 'unemployment' should not be used, otherwise it would cause confusion and misinterpretation by the general public. I would like to stress that the definition currently adopted by the Government for measuring unemployment follows closely those recommended by the ILO and is in line with the international standard. In this way, we can ensure that our survey methodology and results so obtained are objective, neutral and can maintain continuity over time. The statistics so compiled will also be reliable and useful.
- (d) The C&SD conducts on a continuous basis the GHS and also on a regular basis the population census/by-census and the Household Expenditure Survey. Questions asked include those related to socio-economic characteristics of the population, such as age, marital status, educational attainment, industry, income, occupation, type of living quarters, degree of sharing and household size, etc. As such, the data are not only confined to household income and employment earnings, and the coverage of information in these surveys is in fact already very comprehensive and sufficient. Thus, to undertake in-depth studies on the various aspects of different income groups - of course including the lower-income group, it only requires cross-tabulating the available data on the various socio-economic characteristics according to income range of households.

End

ID Card checks necessary

\* \* \* \* \*

Following are a question by the Hon Mr Andrew Cheng Kar-foo and a reply by the acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Recently, I have received many complaints from white-collar workers in the Central district about frequent police checks on their Identity Cards (ID Cards). In one case, a lady even had her ID Card checked by the same police officer four times in the same district. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the district which had the highest number of ID Card checks carried out by the Police during the past year, and the reasons thereof;
- (b) whether the Police has any mechanism to guard against police officers abusing their authority in carrying out ID Card checks, so as to prevent such checks from becoming a harassment to the public; and
- (c) whether, in the past three years, there were cases in which police officers were the subject of complaints about abuse of their authority in carrying out ID Card checks and were disciplined; if so, of the number of such cases?

Reply:

Mr President,

In Hong Kong, the requirement to carry an Identity (ID) Card arises from the necessity to combat the ongoing problem of illegal immigration, a matter of great concern to the community. Apart from other measures, for example, close liaison with the Chinese side to prevent the entry of illegal immigrants (IIs), we believe that ID Card checks serve as a strong deterrent to tackle the problem of illegal immigration. It sends a clear signal that no IIs will go unnoticed in Hong Kong. Our measures have been very effective. The total number of IIs arrested has continued to drop since 1993. When compared with 1995, the total number of IIs arrested in 1996 dropped by 13.6%.

Against the above background, the answers to the three parts of the question are as follows -

- (a) The Police only keep statistics on the number of ID Card checks according to Police Regions. In 1996, the Hong Kong Island Police Region had the highest number of ID Card checks.

The number of checks in a particular Police Region depends on a number of factors including the crime situation, job opportunities for IIs, illegal immigration trend and transient population. In the case of Hong Kong Island, the large population together with good job opportunities and many popular spots for burglary contribute to the high number of ID Card checks.

- (b) The Police Force senior management takes a serious view on abuse of authority and emphasises the importance of professionalism from time to time in their orders. This is supplemented by the enhancement of quality of Police officers through careful recruitment and training. The percentage of Police Constable recruits who are academically qualified for Probationary Inspectors rose from 18.4% in 1988/89 to 33.6% in 1996/97.

In addition, the Police have well established guidelines and safeguards to ensure that ID Card checks are carried out properly -

- i) incorporating ID Card checks in the curriculum of the Police Training School, emphasising that only relevant questions should be asked;
- ii) a Police officer conducting the ID Card check has to explain to the person why he has been stopped if asked;
- iii) a Police officer is required to record details of the ID Card check in his Police notebook;
- iv) apart from checking the validity of the ID Card, the other information available to a Police officer conducting ID Card check through the Police's computer system is restricted to only whether there is an outstanding arrest warrant for the person stopped, the person stopped is likely to be violent, or the person stopped has been reported as missing;
- v) the Police's computer system also captures any information requested by the Police officer when conducting the ID Card check which provides a trail for investigation whenever a complaint against a Police officer is lodged;
- vi) in accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, a Police officer has to explain to the person checked that he has the right to obtain a copy of the personal information recorded from the relevant Police station; and

- vii) if a person is aggrieved by a Police officer during the ID Card check, he can lodge a complaint to the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO).
  
- (c) During the past three years, the CAPO received 146 cases of complaint against 220 Police officers on matters related to ID Card check. 54 cases were resolved through communications between the complainants and the Police to the mutual satisfaction of the parties involved. For the remaining 92 cases, they were mostly classified as "unsubstantiated", "withdrawn" and "not pursuable". No disciplinary action was instituted by the Police Force.

End

#### Legislation to regulate the sales descriptions of uncompleted flats

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Albert Chan and an oral reply by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

A number of property owners have recently complained to me that at the time they bought flats from the private developers, the sales brochures indicated that the developers would provide car park spaces for rent. However, after the flats had been occupied for some time, the developers withdrew all such car park spaces and put them up for sale, thus depriving the property owners of their right to rent car park spaces. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) what measures does the Government have to protect the rights of property owners in the above situation; and
  
- (b) whether the Government will stipulate in the conditions of land grant a requirement that the developer provide a fixed number of car park spaces for rent in a development project; if so, when such a measure will be implemented; if not, why not?

Reply:

Mr President:

- (a) the Administration agrees that the quality and reliability of information contained in the sales brochures of local residential flats should be improved to better protect the interests of home purchasers. We are taking steps to regulate the sales descriptions of local uncompleted flats by legislation and aim to introduce a bill for this purpose into the Legislative Council before the end of this year. The proposed legislation will impose statutory obligation and liabilities on developers to provide adequate and reliable information in their sales brochures. In respect of car park spaces, the proposed legislation will require that the sales brochure contains a description of the car park spaces within the development, including the respective numbers for sale, for rent, and for visitors. If the developer has not yet decided on these matters when he prints the sales brochure, the proposed legislation will require that this fact be stated clearly in the sales brochure.
- (b) we have no intention of introducing land grant clauses requiring the provision of car park spaces for rental. Our considerations are-

First, the existing car park clause under the lease conditions already restricts the use of car parks by residents inside the lot and bona fide visitors only.

Second, the proposed measure has its drawbacks. The number of car parks available for sale would be reduced as a result, thereby further driving up their prices. Ownership of car parks would be more discriminatory. Moreover, requiring a developer to provide car parking spaces only for rental is a measure which imposes a financial burden, i.e. the commitment of funds, on the developer over an indefinite period and needs very careful thinking.

To strike a balance, we are considering to restrict, in future residential land grants, the sale or underletting of car parks to building owners of the development only.

End

Arrangements for commemorative stamps sale

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Following is a question by Dr the Hon Law Cheung-kwok and a written reply by the acting Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Leo Kwan, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the additional operating costs borne by the Post Office as a result of the sale of various commemorative stamps during the past twelve months; and
- (b) whether arrangements have been made to enable civil servants and certain members of the public to have priority in purchasing commemorative stamps; if so, what the reasons are?

Reply:

Mr President,

The additional operating costs borne by the Post Office as a result of the sale of various commemorative stamps during the past twelve months amounted to \$112 million. The estimated revenue generated from selling commemorative stamps amounted to \$1,142 million during the said period.

Until recently, there have been special arrangements for the sale of special stamps, souvenir sheets and stamp sheetlets for staff of the Post Office, who could generally not take leave on the first day of sale to purchase stamps over the counter. The sales quota for staff has been generally lower than the public quota. For customer relations purposes, customers with whom the Post Office has close working relationships, and organisations which provide service support to the Post Office could also order stamps in advance, subject to the same quota as for members of the public. Organisations related to the theme of a special stamp issue can also order stamps in advance.

The Post Office has introduced an enhanced local advance order service for the next special stamp issue on 27 April and future issues. Through this service anyone can place orders for mint stamps and serviced covers about two weeks before the issue date, with no limit on purchases. With the introduction of this new service, the sales arrangements for staff and customer relations purposes have ceased.

End

Statistics on One-way Permit holders

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Following are a question by the Hon Lau Chin Shek and a written reply by the acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding the arrival in the territory of One-way Exit Permit holders from mainland China, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the following information on the One-way Exit Permit holders coming to the territory in each of the past three years;
  - (i) a breakdown of the categories of their relationship with their family members/relatives in the territory;
  - (ii) a breakdown of the length of waiting time (by number of years) in obtaining approval of their applications;
  - (iii) a breakdown of their places of origin;
- (b) of the estimated number of children of Hong Kong permanent residents, who meet the requirements under the Basic Law and have the right of abode in Hong Kong but are not yet able to come to settle in the territory; and how such an estimated number is arrived at; and
- (c) whether, according to the existing legislation, any person who has the right of abode in Hong Kong shall have the absolute right to enter and settle in the territory at any time?

Reply:

Mr President,

Various types of information are collected from one-way permit holders for monitoring and planning purposes. The number of one-way permit holders entering Hong Kong each year is not necessarily the same as the size of the agreed quota, because one-way permit holders may not enter Hong Kong immediately after the issue of the permit. Since 1995, we have refined the breakdown of certain items of information and added new items of information to be obtained from new immigrants.

(a) The requested figures on One-way Permit holders entering Hong Kong are as below.

(i) Breakdown of legal immigrants from China entering Hong Kong in 1994 by categories of their relationship with their family members in the territory

	1994
With only parents in HK	18241
With only spouse in HK	16129
With only child(ren) in HK	798
With spouse & parent & child(ren) in HK	473
With no next-of-kin in HK	2577
<b>Total</b>	<b>38218</b>

Breakdown of legal immigrants from China entering Hong Kong from 1995-1996 by categories of their relationship with their family members in the territory

	1995	1996
With spouse or spouse & child(ren) in HK	18836	25231
With parent or parent & child(ren) in HK	22603	31774
With child(ren) only in HK	685	634
With spouse & parent or spouse & parent & child(ren) in HK	1168	1198
With no next-of-kin in HK	2694	2342
<b>Total</b>	<b>45986</b>	<b>61179</b>

Note:

- Compiled based on data provided by the immigrants

(ii) Breakdown of legal immigrants from China entering Hong Kong in 1995 and 1996 by waiting time for approval

Waiting Time	1995	1996
less than 1 year	7906	8829
1 - <2 years	14999	21478
2 - <3 years	6295	13088
3 - <4 years	6431	8888
4 - <5 years	2385	3248
5 - <6 years	2696	1221
6 - <7 years	1116	1298
7 - <8 years	773	568
8 - <9 years	700	529
9 - <10 years	653	344
10 - <11 years	751	450
11 - <15 years	925	804
15 - <20 years	279	349
20 - <25 years	57	64
25 years and over	12	20
Unknown	8	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>45986</b>	<b>61179</b>

Note:

- Compiled based on data provided by the immigrants
- Waiting time = Date of entry - Date of application
- Figures on waiting time prior to 1995 are not available.

(iii) Breakdown of legal immigrants from China entering Hong Kong from 1994 to 1996 by place of origin

	1994	1995	1996
Fujian Province	10716	8758	9565
Guangdong	19804	29381	43532
Guanxi Zhuangzu A.R.	1002	899	1050
Hainan Province	988	1074	1147
Shanghai Municipality	1018	1229	1129
Yunnan Province	687	702	480
Zhejiang Province	662	644	854
Others	3341	3299	3422
<b>Total</b>	<b>38218</b>	<b>45986</b>	<b>61179</b>

Note:

- Compiled based on data provided by the immigrants

- (b) According to our latest projected estimate, as at 1 July 1997, around 35,000 children of Hong Kong permanent residents who meet the requirements under Basic Law Article 24(2)(3) will still be in China.

In the General Household Survey conducted from late 1995 to early 1996 by the Census and Statistics Department, special questions were included to collect information on Hong Kong residents with spouses in China and these couples' fertility. The survey enumerated over 9,000 households randomly drawn from all domestic households in Hong Kong.

Our forecasts into the future were made based on the results from the General Household Survey and a number of assumptions such as the composition of the one-way permit quota would remain the same; and the number of Hong Kong residents who will get married in China each year in the future will follow the pattern derived from the General Household Survey.

- (c) Under the existing provisions of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115), a person who now has the right of abode in Hong Kong has the right -
  - (a) to land in Hong Kong;
  - (b) not to have imposed upon him any condition of stay in Hong Kong, and any condition of stay that is imposed shall have no effect;
  - (c) not to have a deportation order made against him; and
  - (d) not to have a removal order made against him.

End

Sale of sushi, sashimi and raw oysters

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Ngan Kam-chuen and a written reply by the Secretary for Broadcasting, Culture and Sport, Mr Chau Tak-hay, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

The Regional Council (RC) and the Urban Council (UC) introduced new measures for regulating the preparation and sale of sushi, sashimi and raw oysters in February and March this year respectively. In this connection, does the Government know:

- (a) of the total number of food establishments selling sushi, sashimi and raw oysters in the territory prior to the introduction of the above measures;
- (b) of the respective numbers of such food establishments inspected by the Regional Services Department and the Urban Services Department, as well as the numbers of food establishments which have been granted permission by the RC and the UC respectively for the sale of restricted foods such as sushi, sashimi and raw oysters, since the introduction of the above measures; and
- (c) whether any prosecutions have been instituted against food establishments for selling such foods without permission, since the introduction of the above measures?

Reply:

Mr President,

According to information provided by the Regional Services Department and the Urban Services Department:

- (a) before the relevant legislation came into operation, there were 335 food establishments selling sushi, sashimi and raw oysters in Hong Kong, of which 132 were in the Regional Council area and 203 were in the Urban Council area;

- (b) since then, the two municipal services departments have inspected all the 335 food establishments. Up to early April 1997, the two Municipal Councils had given approval to 254 food establishments for the sale of such food, among which 69 were in the Regional Council area and 185 were in the Urban Council area; and
- (c) so far, 63 prosecutions have been instituted against food establishments for the sale of these restricted food items without a licence or permission, of which 21 are in the Regional Council area and 42 are in the Urban Council area.

End

Assistance to young drug abusers

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Following is a question by Dr the Hon Law Chi-kwong and a written reply by the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

The Education Department currently provides grants to voluntary agencies which organize educational courses for young drug abusers undergoing treatment and rehabilitation, so as to ensure that these young people can receive proper education during the treatment and rehabilitation period. However, it is learnt that no education-related special grants, such as textbook and stationery grants, are included in the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance allowance received by these young people. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the number of young drug abusers undergoing treatment and rehabilitation who applied for education-related special grants from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in the past two years, together with the number of such applications which were approved;
- (b) whether the SWD provides financial assistance to these young people to meet their educational needs; if so, of the categories and rates of such grants; if not, why not; and
- (c) whether the SWD will consider reviewing its existing policy on providing education-related special grants to these young people, so as to satisfy their educational needs?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) The special grant for selected items of school-related expenses are payable under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme to school children (from pre-primary to upper secondary) attending institutions providing full-time education certified by the Education Department. Drug withdrawal centres are not such institutions. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not therefore have statistics on applications for such special grants from young drug abusers undergoing treatment and rehabilitation in these centres.
- (b) To provide for the educational needs of young drug abusers undergoing treatment/rehabilitation in confinement in these centres, the Education Department (ED) introduced the Educational Programme for Rehabilitating Young Drug Abusers (the Programme) in September 1995. The Programme provides education in the three basic subjects of Chinese, English and Mathematics, as well as training in some practical/technical skills.

In 1996-97, the Programme provided funding to 9 Christian agencies for running 21 units (each covering 10 youngsters aged 18 and below) totalling \$5.01 million. The funding involved a block grant in the amount of \$21,525 per unit per month (at 1996-97 level) and a one-off grant of \$10,500 per location.

The block grant aims to cover the salary of the teacher as well as the costs for relevant educational materials such as books, reference materials and small equipment for use by teacher(s). The one-off grant is for the purchase of general classroom furniture and equipment and a television cum video recorder. A learning package for each centre can also be obtained from the ED free of charge.

The Programme should be able to address to a large extent the educational needs of the youngsters when they are in these centres. The ultimate objective is to reintegrate them into mainstream education as soon as possible.

In addition, these centres may propose and the ED will follow up on, suitable school placements for relevant youngsters.

Separately, in the event that the families of such young drug abusers are unable to support them financially, they would be able to apply for financial assistance under the CSSA Scheme.

- (c) The educational needs of these youngster during their treatment and rehabilitation are catered for under ED's Programme. Nevertheless, the SWD is evaluating the service provided by these drug withdrawal centres in the treatment and rehabilitation of young drug abusers with a view to considering what assistance could be provided to relevant agencies.

End

#### Workload of language teachers under review

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Following is a question by Dr the Hon David Li Kwok-po and a written reply by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

The findings of a survey conducted by the Professional Teachers' Union reveal that 90% of language teachers are under an enormous workload and that they have to spend on average 35 hours a week after school in marking students' assignments. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether the Education Department has any plan to increase the number of language teachers and reduce the number of teaching sessions of these teachers?

Reply:

Mr President,

Arising from the recommendation of the Education Commission Report No.6, the Education Department has set up a working group to review the workload of language teachers in primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. In this connection, the Department has commissioned the Hong Kong Institute of Education to conduct a consultancy study of the workload of language teachers in the light of existing curriculum, examinations, teaching methods and resource materials available in schools. The consultancy study is scheduled to be completed in July 1997. We will consider taking appropriate action in the light of the findings of the consultancy study and any recommendations from the working group.

End

Air passenger departure tax

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Following is a question by the Hon Howard Young and a written reply by the acting Secretary for the Treasury, Mr Kevin Ho, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council whether:

- (a) it has received any complaints or opinions from the airlines that the current practice of relying on the airlines to collect the airport departure tax is detrimental to their provision of an efficient customer service at the check-in counters; and
- (b) it will consider adopting the practice in other international airports and using vending machines or special counters at the new airport at Chek Lap Kok to collect airport departure tax and other related charges direct from passengers?

Reply:

- (a) We have received views from the airlines that the current method of collecting air passenger departure tax at the airline check-in counters in the airport should be improved so that the airlines can provide a more efficient service to passengers at their counters.
- (b) We have set up a working group within the Administration to examine possible alternatives for the collection of air passenger departure tax. In this process, we will examine all possible alternatives including the installation of vending machines and the setting up of special counters in the new airport for the purpose. Apart from the departure tax, there are no other related charges which have to be collected direct from passengers.

End

Justices of the Peace

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Chim Pui-chung and a written reply by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the current respective numbers of Official Justices of the Peace and Non-official Justices of the Peace, as well as their respective powers and functions; and
- (b) how long the existing system for the appointment of Justices of Peace will remain in force?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) As at April 1997, there are 279 Official Justices of the Peace (JPs) and 613 Non-official JPs. The categorisation of Official and Non-official JPs is purely an administrative practice; there are no differences in powers and functions between them.

Historically, the office of JP was a judicial one. Over the years, JPs in Hong Kong have accumulated a wide range of judicial and quasi-judicial powers under various local ordinances. These powers include the issue of summons, arrest warrants, search warrants, warrants to effect entry to certain premises to carry out duties, and abatement of fire hazard and nuisance orders. With the development of a professional judiciary, these powers are no longer exercised by lay JPs. JPs also have the power to administer oaths and declarations, witness the signing of documents, confirm information under certain statutes and other miscellaneous powers.

Today, the main function of JPs is to pay visits to certain institutions including prisons, detention centres, reformatory schools and hospitals to ensure that these institutions are operated efficiently and that no individuals residing in the institutions are deprived of their rights. JPs are also required to perform other duties as directed by the Governor, such as to monitor the repatriation of Vietnamese migrants and carry out ad hoc enquiries.

- (b) JPs are at present appointed by the Governor under Article XIV of the Letters Patent, which will lapse after 30 June. We consider that the institution of JP has proved its value over the years and has earned the respect of the community. In order to enable the system to continue after 30 June, we have drafted a Bill to provide a local statutory basis for the appointment of JPs. The JP Bill was introduced into this Council on 19 March and is now being scrutinized by a Bills Committee.

End

#### Integrated vehicle emission control strategy to tackle air pollution

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Following is a question by the Hon Zachary Wong and a written reply by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the average air quality objective level in each of the districts in the territory;
- (b) the worst air quality objective level and the district in which it occurs;
- (c) the districts which are expected to suffer an obvious decline in the air quality in the coming three years, and the reasons for the decline; and
- (d) the measures in place to improve the air quality in the territory?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) The average concentrations of four major air pollutants measured in 1996 by the Environmental Protection Department's air monitoring stations are shown at the Annex.
- (b) The highest air pollution levels were recorded at busy roadsides and in Yuen Long, Kwun Tong and Sham Shui Po.
- (c) We do not envisage significant deterioration in general air quality in the next few years. Instead, the implementation of various air pollution control measures in recent years has substantially reduced the ambient concentrations of air pollutants such as lead and sulphur dioxide and improved the air quality in localised areas adjacent to pollution sources. Nonetheless, the high concentration of respirable suspended particulates from diesel vehicle emissions remains a major concern.
- (d) Air pollution from industrial activities are already subject to very stringent licence control. We also aim to implement the Construction Dust Regulation, now being examined by the Legislative Council, later this year to reduce emissions of dust particles from construction activities. The main source of Hong Kong's air pollution problem is diesel vehicle emissions. To abate vehicular pollution, we are working on an integrated vehicle emission control strategy which comprises five main elements -
  - (i) explore clean alternatives to diesel fuel; trial to use LPG is being planned;
  - (ii) adopt the most stringent practicable vehicle emission and fuel standards;
  - (iii) strengthen the control of smoky vehicles by adopting better smoke testing procedures;
  - (iv) step up the vehicle inspection programme to enhance maintenance of vehicles; and
  - (v) launch more intensive education programmes targeted at both the community and drivers.

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**Annex**

**Average Concentrations of Four Major Air Pollutants  
Measured at EPD's Air Monitoring Stations in 1996**

Air Quality Monitoring Station	Sulphur Dioxide ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Nitrogen Dioxide ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Respirable Suspended Particulates ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Total Suspended Particulates ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
<b>Air Quality Objective (Annual Average)</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>80</b>
Central/Western	15	47	48	81
Sham Shui Po	19	66	56	95
Kwun Tong	19	66	58	96
Tsuen Wan	22	62	51	82
Kwai Chung	21	43	44	70
Sha Tin	13	45	40	61
Tai Po	not measured	46	47	69
Yuen Long	18	52	58	101
Mong Kok Roadside	31	77	73	136

End

Maintenance of lift services

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Huang Chen-ya and a written reply by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council whether -

- (a) it has undertaken any study on the situation concerning the monopoly of lift maintenance services by lift suppliers in the territory; if so, of the findings of the study; and
- (b) it will consider bringing in more competition, so that consumers have a greater number of lift maintenance companies to choose from, thus bringing down the maintenance cost; if not, why not?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) . The records kept by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department show that there are about 41,000 lifts in the territory being serviced by 35 registered lift contractors. All the registered lift contractors are also eligible for being lift suppliers. The percentages of lifts maintained by the 10 largest registered lift contractors were about 87%, 86% and 85% for 1994, 1995 and 1996 respectively; and
- (b) with 35 registered lift contractors in the market, reasonable competition already exists. Building owners can select the maintenance agents suitable for their purpose, having regard to factors including the service charges and the quality and reliability of maintenance service.

End

Wage indices

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Chan Wing-chan, and a written reply by the Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Rafael Hui, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

According to Government statistics in recent years, the rate of increase in the average earnings of employees has been higher than the rate of wage increase, which indicates that employees in some industries have to rely on overtime pay and irregular earnings to increase their income. In this connection, will the Government provide the information relating to items (a) to (c) below, in regard to the past three years:

- (a) a breakdown by industry and occupation of -
  - (i) the respective rates of change in the average nominal and real earnings as well as in the wages of local employees;
  - (ii) the respective proportions of overtime pay and irregular earnings to the average nominal earnings;
  - (iii) the respective proportions of overtime pay and irregular earnings to the average real earnings;
- (b) the major industries and occupations in which employees receive overtime pay more frequently, and the respective numbers of normal and overtime working hours of the employees concerned;
- (c) the major industries and occupations in which employees receive irregular earnings more frequently, and the main forms of payment for such earnings;

if not, what the reasons are; and whether the Government will consider collecting such information and publishing on a regular basis?

Reply:

- (a)(i) The Census and Statistics Department publishes, on a half-yearly basis, the wage indices, and on a quarterly basis, the payroll indices, for selected industry groups. The wage indices for individual major industry groups are further broken down by broad occupational categories up to the supervisory level.

Statistics on the rates of change in the nominal and real wage indices over the past three years, broken down by main sector and by broad occupational group, are given in Tables 1 and 2 respectively.

Statistics on the rates of change in the nominal and real indices of average payroll, broken down by main sector, are given in Tables 3 and 4 respectively.

- (ii)&(iii) Statistics are not available specifically on the proportion of overtime pay in total payroll. To simplify the data collection process within the limit of resources and also having due regard to the reporting burden on employers, at present the Census and Statistics Department requires employers to report on the payroll data with a broad delineation into the regular and irregular components only.

Statistics on the proportion of the irregular component in the total payroll, analysed by major sector, are given in Table 5.

- (b) Data on overtime work have been collected only from a special topic enquiry conducted via the General Household Survey during October-November 1996. The statistics relate to the total number of working hours of employees and their overtime worked, analysed by main sector and by main occupational group. These statistics are shown in Table 6. It shows that the transport, storage and communications sector, as well as the manufacturing sector had overtime work more frequently than the other sectors during the survey period.

- (c) Indicated in (a)(ii) above, a further breakdown of the irregular component of total payroll by form of payment is not available. Table 5 nevertheless shows that employees in the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector, as well as those in the transport, storage and communications sector had a greater proportion of their payroll in the form of irregular earnings than those in the other sectors in 1996.

The Census and Statistics Department will continue to consider the possibility of obtaining finer breakdowns of the payroll data, in the light of demand for such additional data, but also necessarily having regard to the extra reporting burden on employers and the extra cost of collecting the data.

**Table 1 : Changes in Wage Levels in Nominal Terms for Workers up to the Supervisory Level as Measured by Nominal Wage Indices by Economic Sector and by Occupation Group, 1994 to 1996**

	Year-on-year change in nominal wage index (%)		
	Sep 1994	Sep 1995	Sep 1996
<b>(A) Manufacturing Sector</b>			
<b>Occupation group</b>			
All selected occupations	8.1	5.6	7.5
<i>of which :</i>			
Supervisory & technical workers	12.4	6.9	8.2
Clerical & secretarial workers	10.4	7.3	6.6
Craftsmen	6.1	7.0	7.6
Operatives	6.3	3.8	7.5
Service workers	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Miscellaneous non-production workers	8.7	6.1	7.1
<b>(B) Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels Sector</b>			
<b>Occupation group</b>			
All selected occupations	9.9	7.2	5.0
<i>of which :</i>			
Supervisory & technical workers	10.7	7.9	6.3
Clerical & secretarial workers	9.3	9.2	6.3
Craftsmen	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Operatives	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Service workers	9.5	5.1	2.5
Miscellaneous non-production workers	9.6	5.4	3.4
<b>(C) Transport Services Sector</b>			
<b>Occupation group</b>			
All selected occupations	10.6	6.7	7.0
<i>of which :</i>			
Supervisory & technical workers	14.0	9.0	8.0
Clerical & secretarial workers	15.1	7.4	7.9
Craftsmen	5.8	4.1	5.4
Operatives	5.9	7.6	9.6
Service workers	24.9	11.4	0.3
Miscellaneous non-production workers	8.0	8.8	10.6

**Table 1 (cont'd) : Changes in Wage Levels in Nominal Terms for Workers up to the Supervisory Level as Measured by Nominal Wage Indices by Economic Sector and by Occupation Group, 1994 to 1996**

	Year-on-year change in nominal wage index (%)		
	Sep 1994	Sep 1995	Sep 1996
<b>(D) Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services Sector</b>			
<b>Occupation group</b>			
All selected occupations	8.8	8.2	8.4
<i>of which :</i>			
Supervisory & technical workers	6.9	9.3	11.5
Clerical & secretarial workers	12.4	8.2	7.6
Craftsmen	2.8	10.3	6.8
Operatives	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Service workers	6.8	-3.2	10.2
Miscellaneous non-production workers	7.8	12.6	-0.6
<b>(E) Personal Services Sector</b>			
<b>Occupation group</b>			
All selected occupations	11.5	7.9	6.1
<i>of which :</i>			
Supervisory & technical workers	11.5	12.5	6.4
Clerical & secretarial workers	4.2	15.5	10.3
Craftsmen	4.2	10.1	7.4
Operatives	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Service workers	12.6	3.7	5.1
Miscellaneous non-production workers	14.3	9.0	5.4

Note : N.A. Not Applicable.

Source : Labour Earnings Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

**Table 2 : Changes in Wage Levels in Real Terms for Workers up to the Supervisory Level as Measured by Real Wage Indices by Economic Sector and by Occupation Group, 1994 to 1996**

	Year-on-year change in real wage index (%)		
	Sep 1994	Sep 1995	Sep 1996
<b>(A) Manufacturing Sector</b>			
Occupation group			
All selected occupations	-0.4	-2.9	2.2
<i>of which :</i>			
Supervisory & technical workers	3.6	-1.7	2.9
Clerical & secretarial workers	1.7	-1.3	1.4
Craftsmen	-2.3	-1.5	2.3
Operatives	-2.1	-4.5	2.2
Service workers	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Miscellaneous non-production workers	0.2	-2.4	1.8
<b>(B) Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels Sector</b>			
Occupation group			
All selected occupations	1.3	-1.4	-0.1
<i>of which :</i>			
Supervisory & technical workers	2.0	-0.7	1.1
Clerical & secretarial workers	0.7	0.4	1.0
Craftsmen	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Operatives	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Service workers	0.9	-3.4	-2.6
Miscellaneous non-production workers	1.0	-3.1	-1.7
<b>(C) Transport Services Sector</b>			
Occupation group			
All selected occupations	1.9	-1.9	1.7
<i>of which :</i>			
Supervisory & technical workers	5.0	0.3	2.7
Clerical & secretarial workers	6.0	-1.3	2.6
Craftsmen	-2.5	-4.3	0.2
Operatives	-2.4	-1.0	4.2
Service workers	15.1	2.5	-4.7
Miscellaneous non-production workers	-0.5	#	5.1

**Table 2 (cont'd) : Changes in Wage Levels in Real Terms for Workers up to the Supervisory Level as Measured by Real Wage Indices by Economic Sector and by Occupation Group, 1994 to 1996**

	Year-on-year change in real wage index (%)		
	Sep 1994	Sep 1995	Sep 1996
<b>(D) Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services Sector</b>			
Occupation group			
All selected occupations	0.3	-0.5	3.0
<i>of which :</i>			
Supervisory & technical workers	-1.5	0.6	6.0
Clerical & secretarial workers	3.6	-0.4	2.3
Craftsmen	-5.3	1.5	1.5
Operatives	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Service workers	-1.6	-11.0	4.7
Miscellaneous non-production workers	-0.7	3.5	-5.5
<b>(E) Personal Services Sector</b>			
Occupation group			
All selected occupations	2.7	-0.7	0.9
<i>of which :</i>			
Supervisory & technical workers	2.8	3.5	1.1
Clerical & secretarial workers	-4.0	6.2	4.9
Craftsmen	-4.0	1.3	2.1
Operatives	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Service workers	3.7	-4.6	-0.1
Miscellaneous non-production workers	5.3	-3.4	0.2

Notes : N.A. Not Applicable.  
# Less than 0.05%

Source : Labour Earnings Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

**Table 3 : Changes in Nominal Indices of Payroll Per Person Engaged by Economic Sector, 1994 to 1996**

Economic Sector	Year-on-year change in nominal index (%)		
	3Q 1994	3Q 1995	3Q 1996
Mining and Quarrying	3.6	5.9	7.8
Manufacturing	11.9	12.9	4.4
Electricity and Gas	15.6	11.4	2.9
Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	5.4	11.5	10.8
Transport, Storage and Communications	12.5	11.4	6.5
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	8.7	12.7	8.1
Community, Social and Personal Services	16.6	10.9	8.4

Source : Labour Earnings Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

**Table 4 : Changes in Real Indices of Payroll Per Person Engaged by Economic Sector, 1994 to 1996**

Economic Sector	Year-on-year change in real index (%)		
	3Q 1994	3Q 1995	3Q 1996
Mining and Quarrying	-4.6	-2.2	2.3
Manufacturing	3.1	4.2	-0.9
Electricity and Gas	6.4	2.8	-2.3
Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	-3.0	2.9	5.2
Transport, Storage and Communications	3.7	2.8	1.1
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	0.1	4.0	2.6
Community, Social and Personal Services	7.4	2.3	2.9

Source : Labour Earnings Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

**Table 5 : Irregular Payroll As a Proportion of Total Payroll  
by Economic Sector, 1994 - 1996**

Economic Sector	Proportion of irregular payroll (%)		
	1994	1995	1996
Mining and Quarrying	5.0	5.9	7.1
Manufacturing	8.4	7.9	8.1
Electricity and Gas	7.1	8.6	7.0
Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	8.7	8.0	7.9
Transport, Storage and Communications	8.3	7.2	8.7
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	9.5	9.5	9.4
Community, Social and Personal Services	4.8	4.5	4.1

Source : Labour Earnings Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

**Table 6 : Average Overtime Working Hours as a Proportion of Average Working Hours by Economic Sector by Occupation Group, October - November 1996**

	<u>Average working hours</u>	<u>Average overtime working hours</u>	<u>Average overtime working hours as a proportion of average working hours (%)</u>
<b>(A) Manufacturing Sector</b>			
<b>Occupation group</b>			
All occupations	45.2	0.8	1.8
<i>of which :</i>			
Managers and administrators, professionals and associate professionals	45.7	0.4	0.9
Clerks	43.4	0.6	1.4
Service workers and shop sales workers	42.2	1.1	2.6
Craft and related workers	46.3	1.2	2.6
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	45.7	1.2	2.6
Elementary occupations	43.8	0.6	1.4
<b>(B) Construction Sector</b>			
<b>Occupation group</b>			
All occupations	44.1	0.5	1.1
<i>of which :</i>			
Managers and administrators, professionals and associate professionals	47.4	0.9	1.9
Clerks	42.0	0.4	1.0
Service workers and shop sales workers	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Craft and related workers	43.5	0.4	0.9
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	47.8	2.2	4.6
Elementary occupations	42.8	0.2	0.5

**Table 6 (cont'd) : Average Overtime Working Hours as a Proportion of Average Working Hours by Economic Sector by Occupation Group, October - November 1996**

	<u>Average working hours</u>	<u>Average overtime working hours</u>	<u>Average overtime working hours as a proportion of average working hours (%)</u>
<b>(C) Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels Sector</b>			
<b>Occupation group</b>			
All occupations	47.5	0.3	0.6
<i>of which :</i>			
Managers and administrators, professionals and associate professionals	44.7	0.3	0.7
Clerks	42.2	0.2	0.5
Service workers and shop sales workers	53.9	0.2	0.4
Craft and related workers	47.4	0.8	1.7
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	51.2	1.8	3.5
Elementary occupations	47.1	0.4	0.8
<b>(D) Transport, Storage and Communications Sector</b>			
<b>Occupation group</b>			
All occupations	46.5	1.1	2.4
<i>of which :</i>			
Managers and administrators, professionals and associate professionals	44.4	0.7	1.6
Clerks	44.3	0.9	2.0
Service workers and shop sales workers	43.9	1.6	3.6
Craft and related workers	47.3	2.3	4.9
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	50.9	1.6	3.1
Elementary occupations	45.0	0.5	1.1

**Table 6 (cont'd) : Average Overtime Working Hours as a Proportion of Average Working Hours by Economic Sector by Occupation Group, October - November 1996**

Occupation group	Average working hours	Average overtime working hours	Average overtime working hours as a proportion of average working hours (%)
<b>(E) Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services Sector</b>			
All occupations	45.1	0.6	1.3
<i>of which :</i>			
Managers and administrators, professionals and associate professionals	44.5	0.5	1.1
Clerks	40.3	0.6	1.5
Service workers and shop sales workers	35.1	@	#
Craft and related workers	45.1	0.8	1.8
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	46.6	1.6	3.4
Elementary occupations	57.5	0.5	0.9
<b>(F) Community, Social and Personal Services Sector</b>			
All occupations	48.1	0.2	0.4
<i>of which :</i>			
Managers and administrators, professionals and associate professionals	40.8	0.3	0.7
Clerks	39.1	0.2	0.5
Service workers and shop sales workers	49.3	0.2	0.4
Craft and related workers	46.8	0.4	0.9
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	48.6	0.6	1.2
Elementary occupations	54.7	0.1	0.2

**Table 6 (cont'd) : Average Overtime Working Hours as a Proportion of Average Working Hours by Economic Sector by Occupation Group, October - November 1996**

	Average working hours	Average overtime working hours	Average overtime working hours as a proportion of average working hours (%)
<b>(G) Others</b>			
<b>Occupation group</b>			
All occupations	47.1	0.6	1.3
<i>of which :</i>			
Managers and administrators, professionals and associate professionals	41.2	0.1	0.2
Clerks	41.9	0.4	1.0
Service workers and shop sales workers	31.5	@	#
Craft and related workers	47.3	1.3	2.7
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	47.3	3.9	8.2
Elementary occupations	42.0	0.4	1.0
Others	64.4	@	#

- Notes :
1. The above figures refer to working hours of private sector employees (excluding civil servants).
  2. The number of average working hours and number of average overtime worked refer to the number of hours worked during the seven days before enumeration.
  3. Average working hours include normal working hours, plus paid and unpaid overtime worked, but exclude meal breaks.
  4. Average overtime worked refer to paid overtime working hours.
- N.A. Not Applicable.  
 @ Less than 0.05 hour.  
 # Less than 0.05%.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

End

Non-development clearances on track

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Albert Chan and a written reply by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

It is learnt that the involvement of the clearance units under the Housing Department in the squatter area non-development clearance programmes is only confined to rehousing affected residents. The clearance units will inform the District Lands Office to proceed with the demolition of the squatter huts concerned after the affected residents have moved out. However, I have received a number of complaints from the residents in squatter areas accusing the departments concerned of failing to demolish the squatter huts promptly after the affected residents have moved out, thus allowing undesirable elements to occupy the vacant huts illegally, and this has caused nuisance to the residents nearby. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether the Lands Department has any plan to rectify the above situation; if so, what the details are; if not, why not?

Reply:

Mr President,

The vacated structures mentioned in the Question are squatter huts affected by Category II non-development clearances, i.e. the squatter huts are not subject to immediate and obvious slope danger. We do not compulsorily clear the squatters concerned. In practice, although the Administration encourages the squatters to leave for their own safety, they move out at their own pace, and hence the clearance often spans a number of years. We are aware of the problem of squatter huts left unattended after the squatters have moved out. In the last financial year, we spent about \$1 million on the demolition of such structures. In the current financial year, we will step up our demolition work by spending about \$8 million for this purpose. Departments concerned also patrol the areas to prevent re-occupation of vacant squatter structures or new squatting.

End

Paying airport departure tax at hotels

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Howard Young and a written reply by the acting Secretary for the Treasury, Mr Kevin Ho, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding the arrangement under which departing passengers can pay the airport departure tax at hotels, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the number of passengers paying the airport departure tax at hotels since the introduction of the above arrangement;
- (b) whether the patronage of this arrangement is concentrated in certain hotels; and
- (c) whether it will consider introducing a similar arrangement to other operators in the tourism industry such as travel agents or coach operators?

Reply:

- (a) The number of passengers who bought air passenger departure tax coupons at participating hotels since the introduction of the arrangement in May 1996 and up to the end of March 1997 is about 38 000.
- (b) These departure tax coupons were mainly sold in several hotels located in Central, Queensway, Tsimshatsui and Mongkok.
- (c) We have set up a working group within the Administration to examine possible alternatives for the collection of air passenger departure tax. In this process, we will consider the feasibility of extending the hotel arrangement to include other operators in the tourism industry.

End

Twenty-seven estates using centralised liquefied petroleum gas systems

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Zachary Wong and a written reply by the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Does the Government know of:

- (a) the public housing estates or Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) estates under the management of Housing Authority which are still using centralised liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) systems; and
- (b) the results of the study carried out by the Housing Department on the use of centralised LPG systems in public housing and HOS estates, and the improvement measures recommended in the study?

Answer:

Mr President,

There are 27 estates (16 public rental housing estates and 11 Home Ownership Scheme estates) with gas supplied from 22 centralised liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) systems. Details are at Annex A.

According to the risk guidelines for potentially hazardous installations issued by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, four out of the 22 systems are either classified as potentially hazardous or as being in close proximity to residents. Following studies on these four systems, remedial measures have been taken or are being taken. Details are at Annex B.

Although risk assessment studies are not required of the remaining 18 systems, studies were also conducted. Recommendations include review of the condition of storage vessels and replacement of storage vessels where necessary; reduction in refuelling frequency and level of stock; application of corrosion protection and fire-resistant coating to storage vessels; verification of structural integrity of storage vessel supports; imposition of speed limits on traffic near storage areas; and installation of gas detection systems with direct links to the Fire Services Department. Most of the precautionary measures have been taken, and the remainder will be completed by the end of 1997.

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**Public Rental Housing and Home Ownership Scheme Estates with  
gas supplied from centralised LPG systems**  
使用中央石油氣系統的公共屋邨和居屋屋苑

Area 地點	Public Rental Housing Estates 租住公屋邨	Home Ownership Scheme Estates 居者有其屋屋苑
Tuen Mun (屯門)	On Ting Estate (安定邨) Sam Shing Estate (三聖邨) Yau Oi Estate (友愛邨) Shan King Estate Phases 1, 2 & 3 (山景邨一、二及三期) Butterfly Estate (蝴蝶邨) Wu King Estate (湖景邨)	Siu On Court (兆安苑) Siu Hong Court Phases 1, 2, 3 & 4 (兆康苑一、二、三及四期) Siu Hei Court (兆禧苑) Siu Shan Court (兆山苑)
Kwai Chung (葵涌)		Ching Lai Court (清麗苑)
Yuen Long (元朗)	Shui Pin Wai Estate (水邊圍邨)	
Aberdeen (香港仔)	Wah Fu Estate (華富邨)	
Ho Man Tin (何文田)	Oi Man Estate (愛民邨)	
Lantau Island (大嶼山)	Ngan Wan Estate (銀灣邨)	
Tai Po (大埔)	Tai Yuen Estate (大元邨) Kwong Fuk Estate (廣福邨) Fu Shin Estate (富善邨)	Ting Nga Court (汀雅苑) Wang Fuk court (宏福苑) Ming Nga Court (明雅苑)
Fanling (粉嶺)	Cheung Wah Estate (祥華邨)	
Sheung Shui (上水)	Choi Yuen Estate (彩園邨) Tin Ping Estate Phases 1, 2 & 3 (天平邨一、二及三期)	Yuk Po Court (旭埔苑) Choi Po Court (彩蒲苑) On Shing Court (安盛苑)
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>

**Annex B**

**Remedial works for four centralised LPG systems**  
**subject to risk assessment studies**

<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Remedial works recommended</u></b>	<b><u>Progress on remedial works</u></b>
Butterfly Estate	To be relocated	Relocation was completed in May 1996
Kwong Fuk Estate	To be relocated	Relocation work is in progress and will be completed by end June 1997
Sam Shing Estate	Risk mitigation measures to be implemented	All the risk mitigation measures were completed in June 1996
Wah Fu Estate	To be relocated	Land acquisition is in progress. Relocation will be completed in early 1998

End

Number of coronary bypass operations

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Huang Chen-ya and a written reply by the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Does the Government know of:

the number of coronary bypass operations performed in various public hospitals in the past three years, as well as the complication rate and the survival rate of patients within one year after the operation; and

the current number of patients awaiting such operations, as well as the average and longest waiting time for these patients to receive their operations?

Reply:

During the past three years from 1994-1996, the Hospital Authority (HA) carried out 189, 225 and 260 coronary bypass operations respectively. Information on complication rate and one-year survival rate are not readily available as they are not captured in HA's computerised Medical Record Abstract System.

Collating information manually on the complication rate requires significant professionals' time and effort to retrieve the medical records of the patients concerned and to identify whether another co-existing disease is co-incidental or is a result of the disease itself or of the treatment given. To obtain the survival rate, hospitals have to verify the status of each patient who has received coronary bypass operation on a regular basis and this is not being carried out as a routine.

There are currently 98 patients awaiting coronary bypass operations. While the average waiting time is four months, the actual waiting time for individual patient depends on medical assessment of the urgency of his/her medical condition, such as severity of ischaemic heart disease, anatomical pathology and other associated co-morbidity. The patients who are diagnosed as clinically stable are normally operated on within six months.

End

### Unemployment and underemployment

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Lee Cheuk-yan, and a written reply by the Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Rafael Hui, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the respective quarterly unemployment rates and underemployment rates in each of the three-digit major industry groups classified according to the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification over the past two years; and
- (b) the reasons for the high unemployment rate in the three industry groups which had the highest unemployment rate last year?

Reply:

- (a) Statistics on the quarterly unemployment rates and underemployment rates by major two-digit industry group for the past two years are given in Tables 1 and 2. Further breakdowns by three-digit industry group are however not available, as estimates for such detailed breakdowns are subject to relatively large sampling errors. Estimates for unemployment and underemployment rates for industries which account for only a very small share in total employment are also not available, in view of the relatively large sampling errors against a small sample size.
- (b) In 1996, storage, decoration and maintenance, and clothing and footwear were the three sub-sectors which recorded relatively higher unemployment rates than the others.

The estimates for unemployment rate in the storage sub-sector tend to exhibit great volatilities. It rose from 0% in the first and second quarters of 1995 to around 7% in the second quarter of 1996, falling to around 4% in the third quarter before rising to around 8% in the fourth quarter of 1996. Despite these volatilities, the numbers unemployed in this sub-sector remained at a low level of around 300 or below throughout the past two years, representing less than 0.5% of the total numbers nemployed. It is thus reckoned that the erratic movements in these unemployment rate estimates for the storage sub-sector are very likely to have been caused by sampling errors.

In the decoration and maintenance sub-sector, employment conditions tend to be more closely linked to the level of activity in the property market. As trading in the property market picked up noticeably along with the improved sentiment in 1996, both the unemployment and underemployment rates in the decoration and maintenance sub-sector fell steadily over the course of the year. But as employment conditions in the early part of last year were still affected by the earlier sluggishness in the property market, for 1996 as a whole, the decoration and maintenance sub-sector still recorded a relatively higher unemployment rate of 4.9%.

In the clothing and footwear sub-sector, the relatively higher unemployment rate primarily reflects the on-going relocation of the more labour-intensive and lower value-added production processes outside Hong Kong, which has the effect of dampening local employment opportunities. In 1996, employment conditions in this sub-sector were aggravated by the slack export performance.

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Table 1 Unemployed persons with a previous job by Previous industry (Detailed group)

表一 按以前從事的行業(詳細組別)劃分的曾工作的失業人士數目

Previous industry 以前從事的行業	1995 Q1 第一季		1995 Q2 第二季		1995 Q3 第三季		1995 Q4 第四季		1996 Q1 第一季		1996 Q2 第二季		1996 Q3 第三季		1996 Q4 第四季	
	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)
Manufacturing 製造業	20.7	3.7	20.4	3.6	27.9	5.0	24.3	4.5	21.4	4.1	20.7	4.0	15.4	3.2	16.8	3.5
Food and beverage 食品及飲品製造業	0.1	0.5	0.6	2.4	0.6	2.6	0.6	2.7	0.8	3.4	0.5	2.0	0.4	1.9	0.4	2.1
Clothing and footwear 服裝及鞋類製品業	11.1	5.5	9.4	4.8	14.2	7.5	11.7	6.4	9.4	5.2	9.0	5.1	6.5	4.0	6.9	4.4
Paper and printing 紙品製造及印刷業	1.8	2.8	2.7	3.8	2.1	2.9	1.9	2.7	2.2	3.2	1.7	2.6	2.5	3.9	1.6	2.4
Other manufacturing industries 其他產品製造業	7.7	2.8	7.6	2.8	11.1	4.1	10.1	3.9	9.0	3.5	9.4	3.7	6.0	2.6	7.9	3.4
Construction 建造業	13.4	5.8	15.1	6.2	13.9	5.6	13.4	5.4	15.4	5.9	9.8	3.5	10.0	3.5	8.2	2.8
Foundation and superstructure 地基及上蓋工程	7.7	5.2	7.2	4.4	7.5	4.4	7.2	4.3	8.9	4.9	6.1	3.2	6.7	3.3	5.1	2.5
Decoration and maintenance 裝修及保養工程	5.7	7.2	8.0	9.7	6.4	8.3	6.1	7.5	6.6	8.1	3.7	4.3	3.2	3.8	3.1	3.5
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels 批發、零售、進出口貿易、飲食及酒店業	21.0	2.6	25.6	3.0	27.0	3.1	30.6	3.5	25.7	2.9	29.5	3.3	23.0	2.5	27.7	2.9
Wholesale/retail 批發/零售業	7.2	2.1	9.2	2.7	10.3	3.0	11.5	3.2	10.5	2.9	13.4	3.7	9.2	2.4	10.6	2.8
Import/export trades 進出口貿易業	4.4	1.8	5.2	2.0	4.6	1.7	5.7	2.1	5.4	2.0	5.3	1.9	5.0	1.7	6.7	2.1
Restaurants/hotels 飲食/酒店業	9.3	4.0	11.2	4.8	12.0	4.9	13.4	5.5	9.8	3.8	10.8	4.3	8.8	3.5	10.4	4.3
Transport, storage and communication 運輸、倉庫及通訊業	5.1	1.6	7.8	2.3	8.3	2.5	10.8	3.1	8.4	2.5	10.3	3.0	6.6	1.9	6.8	2.0
Transport 運輸業	4.8	1.7	7.5	2.6	7.3	2.5	9.2	3.1	7.8	2.7	8.3	2.8	5.9	2.0	6.1	2.1
Storage 倉庫業	0	0	0	0	0.2	4.0	0.3	5.5	0.2	5.7	0.3	6.6	0.2	4.4	0.3	8.1
Communication 通訊業	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.8	1.9	1.2	2.9	0.4	1.0	1.6	3.6	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.8

Table 1 (Cont'd.) Unemployed persons with a previous job by Previous industry (Detailed group)

表一 (續) 按以前從事的行業(詳細組別)劃分的曾工作的失業人士數目

Previous industry 以前從事的行業	1995 Q1 第一季		1995 Q2 第二季		1995 Q3 第三季		1995 Q4 第四季		1996 Q1 第一季		1996 Q2 第二季		1996 Q3 第三季		1996 Q4 第四季	
	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services 金融、保險、地產及商用服務業	3.7	1.1	4.9	1.4	5.6	1.6	5.9	1.7	4.7	1.4	5.7	1.6	5.9	1.6	4.6	1.2
Financing 金融業	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.8	1.5	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.1
Insurance 保險業	0	0	0.4	1.7	0.8	2.7	0.7	3.0	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.5
Real estate and business services 地產及商用服務業	2.4	1.2	3.5	1.7	3.1	1.5	4.2	2.1	3.4	1.7	4.0	1.9	4.2	2.0	2.8	1.3
Community, social and personal services 社區、社會及個人服務業	6.0	1.0	7.3	1.2	7.7	1.3	7.3	1.1	9.1	1.4	7.6	1.2	6.3	1.0	5.6	0.8
Public administration 公共行政	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5
Education, medical and other health and welfare services 教育、醫療、其他保健及福利服務業	1.2	0.5	1.8	0.8	2.5	1.1	2.6	1.1	1.9	0.8	2.2	0.9	2.0	0.8	1.5	0.6
Other services 其他服務行業	3.9	1.5	5.0	1.8	5.0	1.9	4.4	1.6	6.9	2.4	5.0	1.8	3.9	1.4	3.5	1.2
Others 其他	0.4	1.1	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.7	0.5	1.4
Overall # 合計 #	77.3	2.6 (2.8)	88.6	2.9 (3.1)	111.0	3.7 (3.5)	105.6	3.5 (3.5)	91.8	3.0 (3.2)	90.5	2.9 (3.1)	80.9	2.6 (2.6)	81.2	2.6 (2.6)

Notes: # Covering all unemployed persons, including first-time job-seekers and re-entrants into the labour force.

Owing to the limited sample size of the General Household Survey, the refined statistics provided in the table are subject to relatively large sampling error. Hence, they should be interpreted with caution.

Since all estimates in the table are subject to sampling error, a zero figure may mean a non-zero figure of a small magnitude.

Figures in brackets are the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates. 'Seasonally adjusted' refers to adjustment for seasonal variations in the proportion of first-time job-seekers in the labour force.

註釋：# 涵蓋所有失業人士，包括首次求職人士及重新加入勞動人口的失業人士。  
由於綜合住戶統計調查的樣本規模有限，統計表內的詳細統計數字會有相對較大的抽樣誤差，故這些數字須謹慎解釋。  
由於統計表內的估計有加樣誤差，寫作零的數字，可能是個小數值的數字，而非是零。  
括號內的數字為經季節性調整的失業率。「經季節性調整」是指按首次求職人士佔勞動人口比例的季节性差異作出的調整。

Table 2 Underemployed persons by Industry (Detailed group)

表二 按行業(詳細組別)劃分的就業不足人士數目

Industry 行業	1995 Q1 第一季		1995 Q2 第二季		1995 Q3 第三季		1995 Q4 第四季		1996 Q1 第一季		1996 Q2 第二季		1996 Q3 第三季		1996 Q4 第四季	
	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)	No. 人數 ('000)	Rate 比率 (%)
Manufacturing 製造業	11.4	2.0	14.4	2.5	13.6	2.4	13.2	2.4	10.5	2.0	11.6	2.2	7.7	1.6	10.7	2.2
Food and beverage 食品及飲品製造業	0.2	0.6	0	0	0.2	0.9	0.4	1.8	0.2	0.9	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.2	0	0
Clothing and footwear 服裝及鞋類製品業	9.5	4.7	11.4	5.8	8.8	4.6	9.4	5.1	7.9	4.4	8.3	4.7	4.5	2.8	7.4	4.7
Paper and printing 紙品製造及印刷業	0.1	0.2	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.9
Other manufacturing industries 其他產品製造業	1.6	0.6	2.2	0.8	4.2	1.6	3.0	1.2	2.0	0.8	2.7	1.1	2.6	1.1	2.7	1.2
Construction 建造業	17.8	7.8	32.2	13.1	40.2	16.1	35.2	14.1	29.7	11.4	26.6	9.5	20.5	7.1	21.1	7.1
Foundation and superstructure 地基及上蓋工程	8.6	5.7	16.4	10.1	21.2	12.3	17.4	10.4	14.5	8.0	15.5	8.1	11.1	5.5	9.9	4.8
Decoration and maintenance 裝修及保養工程	9.2	11.7	15.8	19.2	19.0	24.4	17.7	21.6	15.2	18.9	11.0	12.9	9.4	11.1	11.2	12.6
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels 批發、零售、進出口貿易、飲食及酒店業	3.3	0.4	5.0	0.6	4.0	0.5	5.4	0.6	5.1	0.6	4.5	0.5	4.2	0.5	5.8	0.6
Wholesale/retail 批發/零售業	1.0	0.3	1.6	0.5	1.4	0.4	1.5	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.8	0.5	1.6	0.4	2.8	0.7
Import/export trades 進出口貿易業	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	#	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.2
Restaurants/hotels 飲食/酒店業	2.0	0.9	3.1	1.3	2.5	1.0	3.3	1.4	3.4	1.3	2.5	1.0	2.1	0.8	2.5	1.0
Transport, storage and communication 運輸、倉庫及通訊業	5.7	1.8	7.1	2.1	11.2	3.3	10.5	3.1	10.1	3.0	7.7	2.3	6.1	1.8	6.8	2.0
Transport 運輸業	5.4	1.9	6.7	2.3	10.9	3.8	10.2	3.5	9.2	3.2	7.3	2.5	5.9	2.0	6.7	2.3
Storage 倉庫業	0.3	4.4	0.2	2.2	0.2	4.2	0.1	1.8	0	0	0.2	3.5	0	0	0	0
Communication 通訊業	0	0	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.8	2.0	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.4

Table 2 (Cont'd.) Underemployed persons by Industry (Detailed group)

表二 (續) 按行業(詳細組別)劃分的就業不足人士數目

Industry 行業	1995 Q1 第一季		1995 Q2 第二季		1995 Q3 第三季		1995 Q4 第四季		1996 Q1 第一季		1996 Q2 第二季		1996 Q3 第三季		1996 Q4 第四季	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services 金融、保險、地產及商用服務業	0.2	#	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.2	#	0.6	0.2
Financing 金融業	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0.2	0.1	0	0	0.1	0.1
Insurance 保險業	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real estate and business services 地產及商用服務業	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.2
Community, social and personal services 社區、社會及個人服務業	3.7	0.6	4.5	0.7	5.0	0.8	6.2	1.0	4.4	0.7	4.2	0.6	3.1	0.5	4.4	0.7
Public administration 公共行政	0	0	0.2	0.2	0	0	0.2	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education, medical and other health and welfare services 教育、醫療、其他保健及福利服務業	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.3	2.0	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.4
Other services 其他服務行業	3.1	1.2	4.2	1.5	4.4	1.6	4.0	1.4	3.5	1.2	3.3	1.2	2.5	0.9	3.5	1.2
Others 其他	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	0	0	0.1	0.3	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Overall 合計	42.0	1.4	63.5	2.1	74.6	2.5	70.9	2.3	60.1	2.0	55.1	1.8	42.0	1.4	49.5	1.6

Notes : Owing to the limited sample size of the General Household Survey, the refined statistics provided in the table are subject to relatively large sampling error. Hence, they should be interpreted with caution.

Since all estimates in the table are subject to sampling error, a zero figure may mean a non-zero figure of a small magnitude.

# Less than 0.05%.

註釋：由於綜合住戶統計調查的基本規模有限，統計表內的詳細統計數字會有相對較大的抽樣誤差，故這些數字須謹慎解釋。

由於統計表內的估計有抽樣誤差，寫作零的數字，可能是一個小數值的數字，而非是零。

# 少於0.05%。