

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****SB169****(Question Serial No. 0667)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (SIN Yat-kin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 137

Question (Member Question No. 49):

In the 2013-14 financial year, the Correctional Services Department indicated under this Programme that it would extend the coverage of the vocational training programme to provide more market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training for persons in custody. Please advise this Committee the effectiveness of the work over the past year? What were the new types of trade introduced? What was the expenditure involved? Will the coverage of the vocational training programme be further extended in the 2014-15 financial year? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Kwok-pan

Reply:

In 2013-14, having regard to the situation of local employment market, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) worked with various training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council to provide eligible adult persons in custody with remaining sentences from 3 to 24 months with more than 30 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis. These courses covered the construction, engineering, business, food and beverage, retailing, tourism, beauty care and logistics sectors etc., including 6 new vocational training courses on Bar-bending and Fixing Skill, Timber Formwork Skill, Webpage Design, Digital Film Editing, Travel Agent Assistant Training and Hong Kong Style Café Operation. About 1 400 training places were provided. The enrolled persons in custody received training and were also arranged to sit for the relevant examinations so as to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and facilitating their smooth re-integration into society upon discharge.

CSD also provides half day education and half day vocational training for young persons in custody. At present, CSD provides them with 15 vocational training courses covering the technical, business and service industries, such as mechanical craft, office and commercial practice as well as food and beverage service. The trainees will be arranged to sit for the examinations held by the accreditation bodies.

In 2013-14, CSD's revised estimate of expenditure on vocational training courses provided by recognised training bodies, employment counseling services, training equipment and materials etc. is about \$13.08 million.

In 2014-15, CSD will continue to offer a wider choice of vocational training courses having regard to market needs, such as courses on Computer Multi-Media Production and Programming, Professional Taxi Driver Training (Taxi Written Test) and Care Worker Training. CSD estimates that in 2014-15, the vocational training-related expenditure like vocational training courses provided by recognised training bodies,

employment counseling services, training equipment and materials etc. is similar to that in 2013-14.