

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****SB174****(Question Serial No. 2748)**

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 136

Question (Member Question No. 52):

The Rehabilitation Division of the Correctional Services Department is responsible for assisting persons in custody to re-integrate into society. It provides useful work and vocational training opportunities for adult persons in custody under the Prison Programme to help them develop good working habits and acquire work skills with a view to facilitating their re-integration upon release. Will the Administration advice on the number of persons in custody being offered useful work and vocational training opportunities in the past three years and the expenditure involved, and how many of them obtained employment within the first year after their release? In 2014-15, what plans will be implemented to help persons in custody re-integrate into society and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

In the past three years, the number of market-oriented vocational training places provided by the Correctional Services Department (CSD) for adult persons in custody who will soon be released and the expenditures involved are as follows:

	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
Training places for vocational training courses	1 334	1 474	1 411 <sup>(Note 1)</sup>
Expenditures*	\$13.54 million	\$13.52 million	\$13.08 million

*\*The figures shown are CSD's expenditure for providing persons in custody with vocational training courses. As some of the training courses are provided by the Employees Retraining Board and the Construction Industry Council free of charge, the Department does not have such data.*

(Note 1) The decrease in the number of training places in 2013-14 is due to the decrease in the number of eligible persons in custody.

In accordance with the laws, most of the persons in custody are not subject to supervision after release. Therefore, CSD does not have the relevant employment data. However, CSD will encourage and refer them to receive post-release employment follow-up service provided by relevant non-government organisations on a voluntary basis.

In 2014-15, CSD plans to provide about 1 400 training places for adult persons in custody. Having regard to the situation of local employment market, CSD will strengthen the cooperation with various training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and 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 cover the construction, engineering, business, food and beverage, retailing, tourism, beauty care and logistics sectors etc. Trainees will be arranged to sit for relevant examinations so as to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and facilitating their smooth re-integration into society. In 2014-15, CSD, having regard to market needs, will offer courses such as Computer Multi-Media Production and Programming, Professional Taxi Driver Training (Taxi Written Test) and Care Worker Training. In 2014-15, the estimated expenditure on vocational training for persons in custody is about \$13.08 million.

Moreover, CSD will continue to render the pre-release employment counseling service. Systematic job matching service will be provided for persons in custody who will be released within 3 months to help them seek employment before discharge. Under this arrangement, persons in custody will have access to job vacancy information through the Pre-release Re-integration Orientation Course, Light Emitting Diode (LED) display boards in correctional facilities and the job vacancy notices displayed in institutions. When necessary, CSD will make arrangements for employers concerned to conduct job interviews with the applicants at the institutions. Since the introduction of the pre-release employment counseling service, 238 employers have registered to offer 447 job vacancies as at end-February 2014. CSD will also provide those rehabilitated persons who are subject to statutory supervision upon release with employment counseling and support, thereby helping them to rebuild self-confidence and re-integrate into society. CSD will continue to promote community involvement and appeal to employers to provide employment opportunities for rehabilitated persons.

In 2014-15, CSD's total financial provision for facilitating the re-integration of persons in custody into society is about \$900 million.