

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**SB129**

Question Serial No.

0920

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 603 Capital Account

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the procurement of one set of low radiation X-ray body scanner for conducting rectal search in Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre under the Capital Account, what are the details and the anticipated effectiveness? Is there any plan to extend the use of body scanner to other institutions?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) plans to procure one set of low radiation X-ray body scanner to assist in the search for contrabands concealed in the body of persons under the Department's custody, with a view to preventing contrabands (in particular drugs) from being smuggled into penal institutions. The Department is now identifying suitable X-ray body scanners for use. Testings on some models have been conducted but so far the results are not satisfactory. Testing results indicate that the scan images were not clear enough and the scanners were not able to detect small objects of low density concealed inside human body or external orifice. We have informed the suppliers of the limitations of the models tested in the hope that they would enhance the functions of their products. We will arrange further testings on other models of X-ray body scanners later.

As most cases of concealing drugs inside human body were found in Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre, the scanner will be used there first if it is procured in future. As CSD is still studying the effectiveness and feasibility of using X-ray body scanners, we do not have any concrete plan at this time to extend the use of the equipment to other penal institutions.

Signature	_____
Name in Block Letters	<u>          KWOK LEUNG MING          </u>
Post Title	<u>          Commissioner of Correctional Services          </u>
Date	<u>          16 March 2010          </u>