

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

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

Reply Serial No.

SB134

Question Serial No.

3024

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Following the full implementation of the Race Discrimination Ordinance and to ensure that all persons under custody are not being discriminated on the grounds of race, nationality, etc., has the Correctional Services Department formulated any measures for the prisoners and remands concerned to ensure no disparity in treatment for all persons under custody? What is the estimated expenditure involved for the measures? Has the expenditure included the training of correctional staff for the effective implementation of the relevant provisions?

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) has all along been providing translation and interpretation services for remands and prisoners by employing qualified part-time interpreters as and when necessary. For 2010-11, a sum of \$485,000 has been earmarked for this purpose. In addition, to ensure that all remands and prisoners will not be discriminated against because of their race, CSD has implemented the following measures:

- (i) A steering committee has been set up for the formulation of an equal opportunity policy within the Department. This committee also monitors relevant measures and procedures in penal institutions, and handles relevant staff training matters;

- (ii) “Multi-languages Phrasebook for Emergency” published by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is available for use by correctional staff in all penal institutions;
- (iii) “Information Booklets for Prisoners/Remands”, printed in more than 20 languages, are provided for remands and prisoners to help them understand their rights, the discipline requirements of penal institutions and rehabilitation services available, etc;
- (iv) Ensure that correctional staff have a thorough understanding of the provisions of the Race Discrimination Ordinance and measures concerned through induction and in-service training programmes. Other trainings are also in place to enhance staff members’ awareness of racial issues including cultural differences and the special needs of remands and prisoners who are ethnic minorities;
- (v) Cantonese learning classes and self-learning kits are provided for prisoners in need to enhance their ability to speak and understand Cantonese;
- (vi) Library books in languages other than Chinese and English are added in all institutions to meet the needs of remands and prisoners who are ethnic minorities; and
- (vii) If necessary, correctional staff may seek the help of Language Centres and Interpretation Hotline operated by non-government organisations.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	KWOK LEUNG MING
Post Title	Commissioner of Correctional Services
Date	16 March 2010