

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

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

Reply Serial No.

SB176

Question Serial No.

0931

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

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the success rates of re-integration programmes within the supervision period, the percentage of inmates of drug addiction treatment centre remaining non-convicted and free from drugs within one year after discharge has all along been low. Besides, the concerned rate for 2010 is 15 percentage points lower than that of 2009. Has the Department reviewed the reasons for the above and drawn up any strategies for improvement? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

Whether inmates of Drug Addiction Treatment Centre (DATC) participating in re-integration programme can remain non-convicted and free from drugs within one year after discharge is affected by a number of personal and socio-economic factors, such as the family and social background of individual inmates, their responses to rehabilitative/counselling services, psychological factor of individuals, the acceptance and support of the community, as well as the prevailing economic conditions, etc.

To help the DATC inmates abstain from drugs and re-integrate into the society, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has redeployed resources of institutions in recent years to enhance the provision of rehabilitative services to young drug abusers. Such services include physical training, vocational training, casework and group counselling and clinical psychological service. They aim to strengthen the physique of young drug abusers, help them to develop a good working habit, build up their self-confidence, improve their interpersonal relationship and strengthen their determination in staying away from drugs.

During the one-year statutory supervision period for discharged DATC inmates, supervising officers will follow up on their employment/education and provide them with counselling and support. The officers will also follow up on supervisees' relationship with family members/friends and their progress of abstinence, so as to help them stay away from drugs. Starting from 2010, CSD has stepped up efforts to monitor the relapse problem for supervisees, which include increasing the number of urine specimen tests and expediting the procedures of confirmatory tests with a view to facilitating early detection of drug-taking by supervisees and taking appropriate actions.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>SIN YAT KIN</u>
Post Title	<u>Commissioner of Correctional Services</u>
Date	<u>16 March 2011</u>