

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB483

(Question Serial No. 5690)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (YAU Chi-chiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the following figures in the past 5 years:

1. The average meal expenses per day per person for the staff of the Correctional Services Department.
2. The average meal expenses per day per person for ethnic Chinese persons in custody.
3. The average meal expenses per day per person for non-ethnic Chinese persons in custody.

Please provide the reasons why additional meals were approved in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2467)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) does not provide meals to staff members, and thus the relevant information is not available.

CSD attaches great importance to racial equality. No persons in custody (PICs) will be treated differently with regard to their race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, including meal arrangements for PICs. Hence, CSD does not have the relevant information on meal expenses of PICs of individual ethnic group. Under section 24A of the Prisons Ordinance (Cap. 234), plain and wholesome food should be supplied to PICs. The various dietary scales currently provided by CSD are designed by dietitians and approved by the Department of Health. The scales meet the nutritional needs of PICs. Prices of all dietary scales are more or less the same. The average cost of food material per day per person is about \$24.6.

Moreover, in accordance with Rule 31 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A), the Department will, on the recommendation of the Medical Officer, provide to individual PIC extra food such as meat or eggs on medical grounds.

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