

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB397****(Question Serial No. 3703)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (LAM Kwok-leung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please list in a table:

- (1) the annual expenditures on meals and the average meal expenses per year per person in custody (PIC) in various correctional institutions in the past 3 years,
- (2) the numbers of complaints lodged by PICs in various correctional institutions in respect of dietary matters in the past 3 years.

Some PICs reflected that the Correctional Services Department (CSD) only allowed Buddhists to choose vegetarian food. PICs were not allowed to have vegetarian meal if they claimed that they needed to go vegetarian due to living habits. It is unreasonable. In this regard, would CSD explain the criteria for dietary choice, and why living habits are not justifiable reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 200)Reply:

- (1) The actual expenditures on "Provisions for institutions" of the Correctional Services Department in the past 3 years were as follows:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Actual expenditure on "Provisions for institutions" (\$)	89.00 million	77.22 million	78.00 million

Currently, the average cost of food material per day per person in custody (PIC) is about \$24.6.

(2) The numbers of complaints about meal arrangements lodged by PICs in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	2015	2016	2017
Complaints about meal arrangements (Number of cases)	89	95	96

Under section 24A of the Prisons Ordinance (Cap. 234), the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is required to provide plain and wholesome food 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. Having regard to the health, dietary and religious needs of PICs, CSD currently provides 4 main dietary scales, namely local staple rice diet (Dietary Scale 1), diet of curries and chapatti (Dietary Scale 2), diet of bread and potatoes (Dietary Scale 3) and vegetarian diet (Dietary Scale 4).

PICs may request for change of Dietary Scale, and the management of the institution concerned will consider the justifications provided on a case-by-case basis with due regard to their health, dietary and religious needs.

- End -