

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****SB416****(Question Serial No. 3987)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (LAM Kwok-leung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the expenditures on rendering book lending services to persons in custody in various correctional institutions, as well as the ratios of books in traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese and English in the past 5 years. Please also provide the criteria and workflow on procurement of books.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 7222)Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) encourages persons in custody (PICs) to foster an interest in and use their leisure time for reading. Therefore, libraries have been set up in various correctional institutions to provide PICs with appropriate books. The total collections of the libraries in correctional institutions currently extend to over 100 000 copies. The quantity of Chinese and English books and their respective percentage of the total collections are set out below:

| Books               | Quantity       | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Traditional Chinese | 78 625         | 75.32          |
| Simplified Chinese  | 7 675          | 7.35           |
| English             | 10 690         | 10.24          |
| Other Languages     | 7 397          | 7.09           |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>104 387</b> | <b>100</b>     |

In the past 5 years, CSD incurred an average annual expenditure of about \$70,000 on the acquisition of new books for the libraries in various correctional institutions. Correctional institutions acquire appropriate books for the libraries in accordance with the established procedures on procurement, having regard to factors such as reading interests and learning needs of PICs. In addition, CSD borrows books from the Hong Kong Public Libraries to facilitate loans by PICs and replaces the borrowed books in batches on a regular basis. CSD also receives books donated by outside organisations or individuals according to the established mechanism.