

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB309

(Question Serial No. 2691)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

At present, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) produces masks for Hong Kong. Please list in tabular form the following information:

- (1) The monthly production outputs of masks and the monthly manpower involved in the past 3 years.
- (2) What are the additional manpower and production output to meet the demand for masks arising from the pneumonia epidemic? Of the manpower involved, what are the respective numbers of persons in custody (PICs) and outside personnel for meeting the additional workload?
- (3) What are the hourly earnings for each person participated in mask production? Is there any increase in the hourly earnings in light of the outbreak of the pneumonia?
- (4) Are there any measures in place to ensure that there will not be overtime, excessive or unreasonable work?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

There was one filter mask workshop in Lo Wu Correctional Institution (LWCI) of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) before mid-January 2020. A total of about 1.1 million filter masks are produced per month on average, a vast majority of which are supplied to the Government Logistics Department (GLD) for its distribution to government departments, while a small amount is supplied to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In the light of the development of COVID-19 infection, there is a rapid increase in demand for filter masks from government departments. As such, CSD has ceased taking orders other than from GLD since January 2020.

The average numbers of masks per month supplied by CSD to GLD and NGOs in the past 3 years are set out below:

Year	Number of masks supplied		
	2017	2018	2019
GLD	about 1.20 million	about 900 000	about 1.10 million
NGOs	about 10 000	about 18 000	about 10 000

Since the epidemic, the filter mask workshop in LWCI has been increasing its production output. Since early February, the workshop has been operating in 3 shifts round the clock. In addition to about 100 persons in custody (PICs) engaged in mask production, over 1 200 off-duty and retired correctional officers have been recruited to help out on a voluntary basis, raising the output to about 2.5 million per month. Among them, about 1.8 million masks are supplied to GLD, whereas the remaining about 700 000 masks are set aside for distribution to cleansing workers engaged by outsourced cleaning service contractors through relevant departments (including Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Housing Department, Government Property Agency, Marine Department and Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (in respect of the Shenzhen Bay Port Hong Kong Port Area)).

Since early March, an additional filter mask workshop has been set up in LWCI. Mask production machines will be arriving in a progressive manner, and the mask production output is expected to be further increased.

Under the existing mechanism, the earnings of PICs are determined having regard to the knowledge and technical requirements, working environment and work-rest schedule of each position, etc. Although the working hours of PICs on night shift are the same as those of other PICs, they are entitled to higher earnings since their work-rest schedule is different from that for normal shifts.

PICs working night shifts will be given break time, during which late-night snacks will be provided. All PICs working night shifts are on a voluntary basis.

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