

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB312**

**(Question Serial No. 2571)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (125) Workshop Services

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

At present, the CSI masks produced by the workshop of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) are supplied for use by various government departments:

- a. Please provide the places of origin and selling prices of all the raw materials for production of masks by CSD. Under circumstances like the pneumonia outbreak, were there any increases in the prices of raw materials and any shortages in supply of raw materials in the past 5 years? If yes, what measures have been taken to address such situation? For instance, in sourcing raw materials, will CSD identify more suppliers to ensure a sufficient supply of raw materials at stable prices?
- b. Please provide the locations of the places for storage of raw materials, the stock held and the monthly storage expenditure.
- c. To cope with the H7N9 outbreak in 2013, CSD increased the stock level of raw materials from being sufficient to cover one month's to three months' use. Amid the present pneumonia outbreak, will CSD increase the stock level of raw materials and what will be the increase?
- d. According to a media report in 2013, the masks produced by CSD were sold at \$0.13 each to various government departments. Please provide the latest selling price. Has the surge in demand for masks led to a rise in the prices of raw materials? Will CSD increase the selling price of masks as a result of a rise in the prices of raw materials?
- e. Does the production cost of CSD masks include the earnings of persons in custody (PICs) participated in the production of masks?
- f. According to the information from CSD, Lo Wu Correctional Institution (LWCI) for female PICs can produce 50 000 masks per day currently. The Government has earlier stated that the production volume can be increased to 70 000 immediately. What will be the increase in manpower in order to raise the mask production volume? If PICs are required to work overtime, can they receive more earnings? If yes, what is the increase in earnings?

g. What is the number of masks currently produced by CSD per month? Will CSD raise the monthly production target in response to the current epidemic? What is the additional number to be produced? Will the Government increase the number of production lines as soon as possible? If yes, when is the relevant work expected to be completed and what will be the respective increases in the daily and monthly production volume by then?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

(a) – (d) Raw materials for masks are supplied at the current contractual prices agreed with the suppliers. The raw materials for masks are currently stored at Lo Wu Correctional Institution (LWCI) and the stock level is sufficient for approximately one month's production. In the past 5 years, the raw materials for masks were imported from various places outside Hong Kong and a stable supply was maintained.

The price of the masks supplied by the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is determined by cost, which is about \$0.13 each.

(e) – (f) Under the existing mechanism, the earnings of persons in custody (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.

(g) There was one filter mask workshop in LWCI of CSD before mid-January 2020. A total of about 1.1 million 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. 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.

Since the epidemic, the filter mask workshop in LWCI has been increasing its production output continuously. Since early February, the workshop has been operating in 3 shifts round the clock. In addition to about 100 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.

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