

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB315**

**(Question Serial No. 1081)**

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:

Regarding the expenditure on the production of masks by the Correctional Services Department (CSD), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The production output of masks and the average cost of raw materials per mask in each of the past 3 years.
2. Since the outbreak of novel coronavirus in January, have there been any changes in the production cost of masks produced by CSD? If yes, please provide the relevant figures including the average production cost of masks in February.
3. The Government has earlier stated that CSD would increase its mask production output. In this connection, what are the estimated daily production output and the expenditure involved in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The average numbers of masks per month supplied by the Correctional Services Department (CSD) to the Government Logistics Department (GLD) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the past 3 years are as 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

There was one filter mask workshop in Lo Wu Correctional Institution (LWCI) 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 GLD for its distribution to government departments, while a small amount is supplied to NGOs. The price of the masks supplied by CSD is determined by cost, which is about \$0.13 each. 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 of CSD 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 persons in custody 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.

CSD is planning to consolidate the resources in the institutions for the establishment of a production base of a considerable size for manufacturing protective equipment such as masks, protective gowns, etc. to enhance its capacity in fighting diseases in the future.

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