

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB317

(Question Serial No. 1576)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides opportunities for persons in custody (PICs) to engage in useful work and vocational training so as to help them develop good working habits and acquire work skills. PICs are arranged to work in workshops for the production of filter masks and protective gowns. How many workshops for the production of masks and protective gowns are under the management of CSD at present? What were the average daily number of PICs working in each workshop and the daily output of each workshop in the past 1 month? What government departments and voluntary organisations were supplied with filter masks and protective gowns produced by CSD this January and February?

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

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 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 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.

At present, the Department does not manufacture any protective gown.

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