

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB324

(Question Serial No. 1759)

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:

Currently, CSI-labelled masks are produced by the production lines of the Correctional Services Department (CSD), which are mainly supplied for use by government departments. However, CSI masks are often found to be available for sale on the Internet. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The number of CSI masks produced by CSD each month in the past 1 year;
2. Please provide relevant details including the government departments supplied with the CSI masks in the table below:

Government Department	No. of CSI masks obtained	Percentage of the total number of CSI masks

3. Since CSI masks are frequently found to be available for sale on the Internet, have there been any mask theft cases in the government in recent months? If yes, what were the details of the cases? If no, has an investigation been conducted into the sale of CSI masks on the Internet?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

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 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. CSD does not have any relevant information on the numbers of masks obtained by various

government departments. 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)).

Filter masks manufactured by CSD are delivered to GLD by the transport service contractor. CSD has been exercising strict control over the storage and transportation of filter masks to ensure proper delivery to GLD. Regarding the sale of filter masks manufactured by CSD on the market occurred recently, the Department will assist other law enforcement agencies in following up the cases.

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