

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5271)

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:

Please provide the following information about your Department:

1. the current stock level of masks.
2. the monthly stock levels of masks in the past 5 years.
3. the monthly stock levels of masks manufactured by the Correctional Services Department in the past 5 years.
4. the expenditures spent on masks in the past 5 years.
5. the monthly consumption of masks in the past 5 years.
6. the numbers of masks procured in the past 5 years.
7. the numbers of masks depleted due to storage problems in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1876)

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. 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, 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. Currently, CSD delivers filter masks to GLD twice a week, and LWCI only keeps a stock of masks produced per 2 to 3 days for delivery to GLD.

Amid the surging global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is facing keen competition in its procurement work. The Government of HKSAR considers it inappropriate to disclose more specific details about the PPE in individual departments at this stage, including the stock levels, the amount procured and the prices, consumption in recent period and in the past few years, etc., so as not to affect the bargaining power of GLD and various departments in procuring PPE.

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