

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB738****(Question Serial No. 5746)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the expenditures on providing book lending services to persons in custody in various correctional institutions in the past 5 years;
- (2) the respective percentages of books in traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese and English;
- (3) the criteria and workflow for procurement of books; and
- (4) the expenditures on procurement of new books, numbers of books procured, their categories and languages in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 573)Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) encourages persons in custody (PICs) to foster an interest in and use their leisure time for reading. Therefore, libraries have been set up in various correctional institutions to provide PICs with appropriate books. The total collections of the libraries in correctional institutions currently extend to over 110 000 copies. The quantity of Chinese and English books and their respective percentage of the total collections are tabulated below:

Books	Quantity	Percentage (%)
Traditional Chinese	82 460	71
Simplified Chinese	9 472	8
English	12 512	11
Other Languages (Note)	11 206	10
Total	115 650	100

Note: Not less than 40 different languages, e.g. Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Korean, Spanish, French, Hindi, Urdu, etc.

In the past 5 years, CSD incurred an average annual expenditure of about \$75,000 on the acquisition of new books for the libraries in various correctional institutions. Correctional institutions acquire appropriate books for the libraries in accordance with the established procurement procedures, having regard to factors such as reading interests and learning needs of PICs. In addition, CSD borrows books from the Hong Kong Public Libraries to facilitate loans by PICs and replaces the borrowed books in batches on a regular basis. CSD also receives books donated by outside organisations or individuals according to the established mechanism.

- End -