

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB770**

**(Question Serial No. 6400)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Prison Management

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please provide the number of new books acquired for the libraries of various correctional institutions and the expenditure involved in each of the past 5 years.
2. What is the distribution of these books by category? What are the criteria for book selection and procurement? What officers on establishment are responsible for this matter? What are the guidelines for compliance?
3. Have the libraries provided appropriate books to persons in custody of other nationalities who are illiterate in English or Chinese?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 267)

Reply:

1. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) encourages persons in custody (PICs) to cultivate an interest in and spend their leisure time on reading. Therefore, libraries have been set up in various correctional institutions to provide PICs with books of different types and in different languages. The total collections of the libraries in correctional institutions currently extend to over 110 000 copies.

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, and the average number of new books acquired every year was about 1 000 copies.

2. Staff members of the Education Unit of CSD are responsible for the acquisition of 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. The Department does not maintain a breakdown of books by category.

In addition, the Department borrows books from the Hong Kong Public Libraries to facilitate loans by PICs and replaces the borrowed books in batches on a regular basis. The Department also receives books donated by outside organisations or individuals according to the established mechanism.

3. CSD makes its best endeavours to increase the number of books in foreign languages. At present, books kept in the libraries of various correctional institutions are in about 40 different languages. In addition to books in the Chinese and English languages, CSD has acquired over 1 600 books in other languages in the past year for reading by PICs of other nationalities who are illiterate in English and Chinese. The distribution of books by category is 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>115 650</b>	<b>100</b>

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

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