

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)262

(Question Serial No. 5938)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (1) Capital Projects
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Daniel K W CHUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is stated in the Estimates that the construction of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link (CWB) project will be taken forward by the Government in 2018-19. Will the Government inform this Committee of -

- (i) the total expenditure and average expenditure per kilometre (km) for the project;
- (ii) the progress of the works concerned; and
- (iii) the expenditures and average expenditures per km for the project in the past three years?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 137)

Reply:

CWB is a 4.5 km long dual three-lane trunk road consisting of a length of 3.7 km tunnel.

The approved project estimate (APE) for the project is \$36.0389 billion. In terms of each lane, the average estimated cost per km is about \$1.3 billion which mainly covers the cost for the following works:

- (1) tunnel construction, and electrical and mechanical works;
- (2) approach roads to the road tunnel portal and slip roads;
- (3) reprovisioning of the affected facilities;
- (4) construction works for associated buildings and ventilation structures;
- (5) installation of a traffic control and surveillance system;
- (6) installation of noise mitigation facilities, and implementation of an environmental monitoring and audit programme for the works mentioned above; and
- (7) consultants' fees and remuneration of resident site staff responsible for supervising the construction works, etc.

Currently, the project is progressing in full swing. CWB, which is a large-scale and complex road infrastructure project, has encountered various unforeseeable difficulties and risks since the commencement of construction in end 2009. Although the tunnel structures

of CWB were substantially completed in the third quarter of 2017, there remain very complicated and challenging tasks in the construction works, including installation, testing and integration of various electrical and mechanical systems in the CWB tunnel. The Highways Department, together with the consulting engineer, are closely monitoring the works progress, assessing the implications of the potential risks and urging the contractors to adjust the schedule of works and take measures correspondingly, with the target of achieving commissioning of CWB in end 2018 or the first quarter of 2019.

For the past three years (i.e. 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18), the annual expenditures of the project are around \$5.01 billion, \$3.24 billion and \$2.72 billion (estimate) respectively. The construction of the CWB project takes many years to complete, with a variety of trades and processes mentioned above being carried out under various works contracts every year. As such, it is difficult to provide the average expenditure per km for the CWB project in the past three years.

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