(Question Serial No. 2238)

Head: (100) Marine Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Local Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Agnes WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWAs) have all along been an integral part of Hong Kong Port (HKP) and the logistics trades, which provide essential support to HKP and maintain its competitiveness. To promote a sustainable development of the cargo handling industry, will the government consider extending the tenancy period of PCWAs’ berths to ten years; using cargo throughput of HKP / cargo throughput of PCWAs as indicators of rent adjustment; and relaxing restrictions on the length of vessels berthed and the use of machinery in PCWAs? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons? What are the estimates for the management work of PCWAs in 2020-21?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

To ensure navigation safety inside typhoon shelters, the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Typhoon Shelters) Regulation (Cap. 548E) stipulates that the permitted length overall of a vessel entering and remaining in the Tuen Mun, New Yaumatei and Rambler Channel typhoon shelters should not be more than 50 metres. Since PCWAs in Tuen Mun, New Yaumatei and Rambler Channel are respectively situated inside the above typhoon shelters, the same length restriction is applicable to vessels berthed in the three PCWAs. For the PCWAs in Chai Wan, Western District and Stonecutters Island, there is no restriction on the length of vessel berthing therein so long as the vessel does not exceed the specified berth length as stated in its berth licence agreement (BLA).

As regards the use of large and heavy machinery in PCWAs, the Marine Department (MD) will consider applications from the operators on a case-by-case basis taking into account safety requirements in operating the relevant machinery such as the floor loading on the ground of the working apron, available space to operate the machinery in the working area, other safety measures proposed to be introduced by the operators, etc.
The existing BLAs of all PCWAs will expire in end July 2021. To prepare for the tender exercise for the next cycle of BLAs, MD will review and consult stakeholders on arrangements related to PCWA operation, including the tenancy period and the rent adjustment criteria.

Management of PCWAs forms part of the normal duties of the staff concerned and is undertaken with existing resources. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

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