(Question Serial No. 3575)

Head: (100) Marine Department

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

Programme: (4) Services to Ships

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:
Regarding the implementation of new measures and amendment of legislation by the Marine Department (MD), please advise on:

(a) the channels through which the MD informs the industry before introducing new policies or amending existing legislation and the staffing involved;

(b) the respective expenditures spent by the MD on the organisation of talks in various districts and on the production and distribution of information leaflets or guidelines in the past three years (2016-17 to 2018-19); and

(c) the policies, in addition to the organisation of talks and distribution of information leaflets or guidelines, to rectify the various inconveniences caused to fishermen repeatedly arising from their unawareness of the MD’s latest changes in policies promulgated online as they are less literate and educated.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:
(a) Before introducing new policies or amending existing legislation, the MD releases information and consults the industry through a number of channels. In general, discussion papers are deliberated at meetings of the Local Vessels Advisory Committee and related Sub-committees, and the papers will be uploaded to the MD’s website. Apart from publishing relevant notices in the Gazette, the MD also sends representatives to attend talks for fishermen groups to explain policies, and invites representatives of fishermen groups to attend talks or meetings of working groups. The above work is mainly undertaken by the Local Vessels Safety Section, as part of their normal duties, with an establishment of 26 staff members.

(b) Release of information and publicity form part of the normal duties of the MD staff and there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.
(c) To ensure that fishermen fully understand the new measures, the MD is proactive in participating in talks held by the major fisheries associations in various districts to enhance communication with the trade, as well as producing and distributing information leaflets or guidelines, and as and when necessary, sending letters to individual addresses of fishermen to inform them of the latest measures.

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