

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CSB008

Question Serial No.

0716

Head : 143 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) : 149 General  
Civil Service Bureau departmental expenses

Programme : Human Resource Management

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Civil Service

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Civil Service

Question :

The estimated expenditure for 2002-03 under Subhead 149 – General departmental expenses is \$30.97 million, which is 26.5% higher than the revised estimate for 2001-02. Please provide the following information :

- (a) the reasons for that;
- (b) the departments concerned in the increase of estimated expenditure;
- (c) the estimated increases in expenditure of the departments concerned; and
- (d) the specific items that incur estimated increase in expenditure

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

Provision under this Subhead is mainly for the daily operations of the Civil Service Bureau (e.g. expenses in hiring of services, postage, office stationery and equipment, maintenance services etc.). Part of the provision will also be used to provide financial

support to other bureaux/departments to launch human resource management initiatives.

The estimated expenditure of \$30.97million for 2002-03 under this Subhead is in fact very close to the estimated expenditure (i.e. the approved estimate) for 2001-02. However, the revised estimate in 2001-02 will be lower because of the lower than estimated expenditure in hiring of services, postage and employing temporary staff.

In estimating the expenditure for 2002-03, while we have taken into account the actual expenditure pattern in 2001-02, we have included a provision of \$3 million for providing financial assistance to bureaux/departments to launch initiatives to inculcate a quality service and customer focused culture and \$0.98 million for providing hot-line counseling service to staff in 70 bureaux/departments. The former scheme used to be funded under a capital account under Head 106 Subhead 777 established in 1998-99. This capital account has a balance of only \$0.23 million and will be fully utilized in 2002-03. In order to sustain the momentum of encouraging departments to continue to launch initiatives to inculcate a quality service culture, we have included a recurrent provision of \$3 million under Head 143 Subhead 149 in view of its continuous long term needs. The latter service was first launched as a pilot scheme funded under a capital account under Head 143 in 1999-2000 and 2000-01. The pilot scheme ended in February 2001. Following a review in 2001-02, we have decided to continue with the provision of professional counseling service on stress management to staff in the light of positive feedback from staff and departmental management.

Signature

Name in block letters

Joseph W P WONG

Post title

Secretary for the Civil Service

Date

22 March 2002