

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

Reply Serial No.

CSB024

Question Serial No.

1062

Head : 46 – General Expenses of the Civil Service Subhead (No. & title) : 001 Salaries

Programme : General Expenses of the Civil Service

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Civil Service

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Civil Service

Question :

The Civil Service Bureau's estimate for expenditure on personal emoluments for 2002-03 is \$138,531,000 – a drop by \$2,072,000 compared with the revised estimate of the previous year. In this respect, I would like to ask the Secretary for the Civil Service the following questions:

- (1) What are the reasons for the downward adjustment in expenditure on personal emoluments?
- (2) Is the decrease related to a pay cut for the civil service? If yes, how is the rate of decrease calculated? Is it related to the assumed 4.75% pay cut referred to by the Financial Secretary? Apart from salary adjustment, are there any other factors contributing to the aforesaid downward adjustment in emolument provisions? If yes, please provide details for each of the factors.
- (3) Is the decrease in emolument provisions attributable to the outsourcing of some public services? If yes, what is the number of posts to be deleted in the process? To what grades and ranks do these posts belong? What benefits are offered? What will be the savings achieved as a result of the outsourcing arrangement?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

Provision under Head 46 Subhead 001 Salaries is for operational reserves of the administrative, executive, clerical and secretarial grades to cover the temporary replacement for officers in departments on long leave or full-time training, for handover purpose and for special ad hoc projects.

The reduction of expenditure in 2002-03 under Subhead 001 Salaries is due to the deletion of 10 operational reserves posts. It is not related to the assumed pay cut of the civil service nor arises from outsourcing of public service.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Joseph W P WONG</u>
Post title	<u>Secretary for the Civil Service</u>
Date	<u>21 March 2002</u>