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Reply to supplementary question raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2020-21

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 3

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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-CMAB01	S031	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	144	-

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-CMAB01****(Question Serial No. S031)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. As at 19 March 2020, the Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan received 2 585 requests for assistance relating to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please list the date on which the first request was received, a breakdown of all requests by month and the nature of assistance requested.
2. Had the 5 Mainland Offices reported the epidemic in the Mainland and its development to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr. Patrick Nip and the Chief Executive, Mrs. Carrie Lam so that Hong Kong could prepare for it? If so, when were the reports made?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

As at 31 March 2020, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Wuhan received 2 611 requests for assistance relating to the COVID-19 outbreak. A breakdown by month is set out in the table below:

Month	Number of requests for assistance
January 2020 (first case received on 23 January)	755
February 2020	1 532
March 2020	324

The above cases mainly involved assistance seekers who were stranded in Hubei Province due to transport condition. Some of them, especially those with chronic illnesses, needed medications provided in Hong Kong while others indicated that they lacked supplies like personal protective equipment and powdered milk. The Wuhan ETO had provided practical assistance and support to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances,

including making arrangements to deliver medications to the Hong Kong residents in Hubei Province who were in need.

2. The 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (namely the Beijing Office and ETOs in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) have stayed committed to their duties, remained vigilant and closely monitored the development of the epidemic situation in their service areas, and maintained close liaison with this Bureau and other relevant departments. They have also uploaded on their websites and WeChat official accounts relevant health information and the latest information on anti-epidemic measures in Hong Kong to provide Hong Kong residents in the Mainland with easy access to all relevant information.

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