

LCQ 12: Electricity supply from power companies

Following is a question by the Hon LEUNG Fu-wah and a written reply by the Secretary for Economic Development and Labour, Mr Stephen Ip, in the Legislative Council today (April 21):

Question:

It has been reported that on the evening of the 11th last month, temporary instability in the electricity supply from CLP Power Hong Kong Limited in some parts of the territory caused operational failure of at least 12 elevators, with some people trapped in them. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) whether it knows the causes of the incident;
- (b) of the number of incidents of interruption or instability in the electricity supply over the past three years, together with their causes;
- (c) whether it has reviewed the effectiveness of the measures adopted by the two power companies to prevent failure in the electricity supply systems; if it has, of the details of the review; and
- (d) of the mechanism to monitor that the technical people employed by the two power companies and their contractors of outsourced services possess the relevant trade skills, so as to ensure the reliability of the electricity supply systems?

Reply :

Madam President,

(a) According to the preliminary findings of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), the momentary power voltage fluctuation on March 11, 2004 was due to a short-circuit inside a sealed 400 kV switchgear unit in CLP Power's (CLPP) Castle Peak Substation.

(b) According to reports submitted to EMSD by CLPP, the numbers of incidents of power instability or interruption in its supply network and their causes in the past three years are as follows -

Causes	Power Instability	Power Interruption
Third Party Damage on Electricity Supply Lines	15	388
Inclement Weather	9	43
Equipment Fault	3	45
Others (e.g. problems with customer installations)	6	22
Total	33	498

(c) & (d)

The reliability index of electricity supply in Hong Kong, which exceeds 99.99%, is one of the highest in the world. To minimise the possibility of major supply interruptions in Hong Kong, EMSD monitors the power supply by the two power companies to ensure that best operational requirements and engineering practices are complied with. EMSD also carries out regular reviews and inspections of the electricity supply systems of the two power companies to ensure that they are being operated safely and reliably having regard to the requirements of the Electricity Ordinance and internationally recognised codes of practice. EMSD will also ensure that engineers and technicians who work on the electricity supply systems possess the requisite qualifications and professional training in accordance with the Electricity Ordinance. Similarly, outsourced electrical work can only be undertaken by electrical contractors and workers registered by EMSD under the Ordinance. EMSD will take appropriate action against a contractor in accordance with the Electricity Ordinance if it is found to have employed electrical contractors or workers who have not been registered to undertake electrical work.

Ends/Wednesday, April 21, 2004