

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW to ask on 23/02/05:(Translation)

It has been reported that the current six government crematoria in Hong Kong with 30 cremators for handling up to 144 bodies per day cannot cope with the public demand for cremating their deceased relatives and friends. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

1. of the shortest, longest and average waiting time for cremating bodies at present;
2. of the details of the existing booking mechanism for cremation of bodies; whether there are criteria for setting priority; and whether the public could, according to their own needs, apply to the authorities for priority for cremating their deceased relatives and friends; and
3. whether the current utilization of the above cremators has exceeded their capacity; if so, of the measures taken by the authorities to relieve the workload?

Public Officer to reply : **Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food**