

**Hon Mrs Selina CHOW to ask on 15/02/06:**

Late last month, a travel agent which had been operating for 30 years and had six branches closed down suddenly, affecting about 200 clients. It was reported that except for a few clients who could apply for ex gratia payments from the Travel Industry Compensation Fund because they had purchased hotel-cum-air ticket packages or joined group tours, the remaining majority of clients who had only bought air tickets were ineligible. Hence, they would not receive any compensation. As it is increasingly common for people to buy air tickets through travel agents, will the Government inform this Council whether it will consider amending the legislation to extend the coverage of the Fund to include clients who buy only air tickets through travel agents?

Public Officer to reply : **Secretary for Economic Development and Labour**