

## 30 airport firms charged for flouting safety rules

By Dominic Lau

THIRTY contractors to the Airport Core Program (ACP) were prosecuted last year for breaching safety regulations, 12 more than the year before.

In his reply to legislator Lee Cheuk-yan's question on the safety of the airport project, Commissioner for Labour Stephen Ip said the numbers of summonses against the contractors had risen to 114 in 1994 from 65 in 1993.

He said warning letters to ACP contractors rose to 407 last year from 183 the year before.

Mr Ip said three foreign workers were killed in ACP projects last year but this figure was minimal compared with those in other construction sites in Hong Kong.

He said fines for successful prosecutions ranged from \$2,000 to \$50,000.

Mr Ip said his department would increase the number of staff responsible for monitoring the safety and health of workers in the ACP project by five factory inspectors and two clerical officers in 1995-1996.

He also said various training courses would be opened to foreign airport workers.

The number of applications allowed this year under the Importation of Labour scheme in the ACP project will be maintained at the 1994 level of about 27,000.

Director of Immigration Laurence Leung said they would open a total of 51 new posts in 1995-1996 at a cost of \$7.2 million to handle the demand for entry visas and other related services.

The ACP has 10 core projects. The Importation of Labour Scheme began in 1991 with an initial quota of 2,000, which increased to 27,000 in 1994. But Mr Ip said there was no need for his department to increase manpower to handle the foreign ACP applicants.