H. K. Starlard

15 Oct. 118-

7 300 submissions on Green Paper

THE Government has so far received about 300 submissions from the public during discussion on the Green Paper on housing subsidies. And it expects another 50 before the closing date in two weeks' time.

A Housing Authority Committee member, Mr Cheung Kin-chung, said yesterday the deadline would not be extended to ensure a decision by December. This decision would be vetted by the Executive Committee early next year.

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He said they would consider whether the objections were sensible and whether they would result in a fair allocation of resources.

The Green Paper suggested that households with income exceeding one and a half times the limits imposed on households on the waiting list should pay double rent.

Mr Cheung met representatives from 12 mutual aid committees in the Tsing Yi District. The group forwarded its objections to the Green Paper.

It said the government should bear the cost of land on which housing estates were built because it was part of its responsibility in ensuring that residents enjoy the basic necessities of life. The representatives charged that the proposals, which were introduced to deal with about 10 percent of "rich tenants", as disturbing their peaceful life and adding a burden on them.

They did not agree that 60 percent of children's incomes should be calculated as part of the household income as very often children only brought home 15 to 20 percent of their incomes.