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\$200m plan for 1991 computerised elections

THE Government was considering spending \$200 million on computerised elections in 1991, an official said yesterday.

Mr Michael Suen Ming-yeung, Secretary of the Constitutional Affairs Branch, said the number of voters was expected to increase from 1.6 million to 2.2 million by then - a 40 percent growth.

A computer network would make handling election results a great deal easier, Mr Suen said.

The Government planned installing a central computer linked to 1,750 terminals at polling stations throughout the territory.

Mr Suen said the Government was discussing whether it was worth spending so much money on elections as they would only be held every few years.

It would not be possible to use the computer system for other purposes, he said.

The Government would also consider leasing a computer as this would be cheaper.

Mr Suen said the present manual system was inflexible.

A person who couldn't get to his designated polling station would be prevented from voting at another.