

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER
WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL 2024

No. 134

12 noon

1

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether there are plans to provide adult Singaporeans access to affordable health planning programmes; and (b) whether the Ministry will support the growth and development of professional health and wellbeing coaches to cater for such health planning needs.
- *2. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) to date, how many telemedicine service providers are operating in Singapore; (b) what has been the take-up rate of these services, including the number of consultations conducted or patients served; (c) whether telemedicine services have contributed to a drop in non-emergency cases at the emergency departments; and (d) whether there are plans to increase public awareness and promote the use of telemedicine services for non-emergency conditions.
- *3. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the new requirement for flights departing Singapore to use Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) from 2026 (a) what are the metrics to monitor for global developments and the wider availability and adoption of SAF that the Ministry will use to determine whether to raise the SAF targets; and (b) whether the Ministry has any projected targets for the use of SAF from 2026 to 2050.
- *4. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the information on job, business or income which HDB will require from a person who is making a housing loan application and what is the time period required for such information; and (b) whether there is any distinction between the information required for (i) employed persons and (ii) self-employed persons.
- *5. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Education given the growing demand for special needs education, whether the Ministry will be considering initiatives to encourage and train more prospective tertiary students to pursue careers in special needs education and rehabilitation.
- *6. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether he can provide an update on the transition framework for carbon tax that was first introduced on 12 January 2022; (b) how does the transition framework for existing facilities in the emissions-intensive trade-exposed sectors ease the transition without eroding the price signal for such companies to invest in decarbonisation; and (c) whether an update can be provided on how much SMEs have drawn down on the Energy Efficiency Fund to build capabilities.
- *7. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) what is the extent of MAS' regulatory oversight of the Central Depository Pte Ltd (CDP) and its relationships and obligations towards individual customers; (b) what avenues for assistance are available for CDP customers who are not digitally literate or savvy, including persons whose accounts have been suspended; and (c) whether MAS considers these avenues adequate in light of some CDP customers being of elderly age and not digitally literate.

- *8. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the Ministry performs horizon scanning of the potential impact of microplastics and nanoplastics on human health and, if so, how; and (b) whether Singapore's sustainability efforts can incorporate reducing the use of items which may contribute to microplastics and nanoplastics being introduced into the environment, food chain and daily life.
- *9. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry tracks the take-up rate of school-based and community-based Student Care Centres (SCC); (b) if so, what are the take-up rates respectively; and (c) whether programmes under these SCCs can be further enhanced to include additional enrichment activities.
- *10. **Miss Rachel Ong:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry plans to include representatives from the disability sector or SGEEnable in the Tripartite Committee on Workplace Fairness; and (b) if not, what will be done to ensure that the voices of persons with disabilities are adequately represented in ensuring workplace fairness.
- *11. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for National Development for each year in the last five years (a) what is the number of appeals that HDB has received under all its schemes; (b) how many appeals have been successful; and (c) whether HDB reviews its schemes and policies periodically to reduce the appeal case load.
- *12. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth with the closure of all three public golf courses by 2024 (a) whether there are plans to convert any of the 14 private golf courses for public use; and (b) whether there are plans to ensure that the sport remains accessible to the general public, especially schools and students.
- *13. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether there has been an increase in the number of artificial intelligence voice cloning scams in Singapore; (b) how many of such scams have occurred this year to date; and (c) how is the Government dealing with these types of scams, including in the areas of enforcement, public education and implementation of technological solutions to prevent their occurrence.
- *14. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Education in light of the 2023 Joint Autonomous Universities Graduate Employment Survey, whether the Ministry plans to (i) discover why, when compared with their university peers, the arts, design and media graduates have poorer employment and salary outcomes and the health sciences graduates have poorer salary outcomes (ii) engage graduates of such courses on how to improve their employment outcomes and (iii) engage the relevant sector agencies and stakeholders to take steps to narrow the employment and salary outcome gap.
- *15. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether Singapore has plans to stockpile uranium to secure energy sources ahead of other countries shifting towards nuclear energy; and (b) what preparations are being made to prepare a core of local talent to enter this industry.
- *16. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) how does the Singapore Food Agency intend to mitigate vehicular congestion that may arise from the new registration and security measures at the Pasir Panjang Wholesale Centre (PPWC); and (b) whether aspects of this system will be reviewed to take into account the feedback from PPWC vendors and consumers.
- *17. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry will consider making available (i) the outdoor fields and indoor sports halls of the Institutes of Technical Education and the Institutes of Higher Learning for the Dual-Use Scheme (DUS) and (ii) other spaces for non-sport DUS purposes including classrooms to be used for continual education programmes; and (b) if not, why not.

- *18. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) when will the Ministry review the minimum annual leave entitlement of seven days provided for eligible workers under the Employment Act 1968; and (b) what factors will the Ministry consider in determining whether the minimum number of annual leave days should be increased.
- *19. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the availability of cat breeding locations for rent from the Animal and Veterinary Service (AVS); and (b) how does AVS deal with the cats seized from illegal breeders.
- *20. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the Ministry intends to conduct a public consultation on Singapore's new or updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which outlines Singapore's efforts in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, that will be due under the Paris Agreement in 2025; and (b) whether this will be done in time for the submission of the updated NDC at least 9 to 12 months in advance of the relevant Conference of Parties.
- *21. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) what is the projected cost of hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games by Singapore; (b) whether Singapore will consider hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games if it does not host the 2026 edition; and (c) whether the results of the feasibility study to host the 2026 Games will be made public.
- *22. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) given the long waiting time for subsidised intervention for special needs children, whether the Ministry will consider engaging more private sector clinics to participate in the Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC); (b) whether the application process for EIPIC can begin at polyclinics before a paediatrician's formal diagnosis; (c) what means testing will be carried out to determine eligibility; and (d) whether placements will be based on severity of condition or on a first-come, first-served basis.
- *23. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the breakdown by race of the 8,300 families in public rental flats who became HDB flat owners from 2014 to 2023; and (b) what is the number of Malay households living in one-bedroom and two-bedroom rental flats in 2023, and how does this number compare with the number in 2020.
- *24. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether a ban of remote electric shock collars is being considered in the guidelines to be released by NParks on the risks of using aversive animal training devices.
- *25. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what are HDB's main considerations when approving housing loan applications and loan quantum; (b) whether the applicant's eligibility for a housing loan and the credit assessment to determine the maximum loan amount is based on the financial position of the applicants at the time of the application for a HDB Flat Eligibility (HFE) letter; and (c) whether HDB will take into consideration updated information provided after the date of the HFE application such as information showing an increase in earnings.
- *26. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) amongst the schools that currently have financial literacy programmes, how many are (i) primary schools and (ii) secondary schools, respectively; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider developing age-appropriate content for financial literacy to be taught in all schools starting from upper primary levels.
- *27. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what are the factors taken into consideration when deciding on whether or not to press charges for ill-treatment of a child or young person by causing emotional harm as defined under sections 6(3)(b)(ii) and 6(3)(c)(ii) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1993; and (b) whether the Ministry is able to share any past case studies to illustrate the above.

- *28. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) what were the circumstances that led to the omission of a sentence in the electronic Lasting Power of Attorney document which was discovered in October 2023; (b) how did the Ministry discover the omission; (c) whether the Ministry has assessed the potential loss or harm suffered by donees and donors as a result of this omission; and (d) what steps are being taken to ensure that such an omission does not take place again.
- *29. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) why was the omission of the sentence as required by law in the electronic Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) document not discovered prior to October 2023; (b) what are the legal implications for such LPA documents without the required sentence; (c) whether there are process checks such as proofreading, vetting or end-user experience validation when such key documentary processes are digitalised; and (d) if so, whether such process checks are conducted by legally trained or laypersons.
- *30. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether an agreement for the maintenance of parking spaces and common property of HDB residential blocks mandate joint site inspections to be conducted by both HDB and the relevant Town Council prior to a handover; and (b) whether there are instances where the maintenance of a HDB parking space or residential block by a Town Council had commenced without a joint inspection first being conducted.
- *31. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether there have been any recent similar initiatives to the Urban Planning Festival held annually by the Urban Redevelopment Authority between 2016 and 2019; and (b) whether there are any plans to revive the annual Challenge for the Urban and Built Environment workshop and competition.
- *32. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether site feasibility studies conducted on the installation of lifts at the Pedestrian Overhead Bridge (POB 60020) along Sengkang East Drive suggest that it is technically feasible to install such lifts; (b) which other Government agencies are required to approve such an installation and what are the deadlines given for such approvals; and (c) what is the estimated timeline for the tender and completion of the construction of the lifts.

* Members may postpone their Questions to a later sitting day if their Questions are not reached by the end of Question Time (QT). For such Questions, Members may email to parl_cop@parl.gov.sg in advance a postponement notice that will be effected after QT. Members must submit their notices to the Clerk within one hour after the end of QT (SO 22(3)). Questions will be given a written answer if no such notices are received by the Clerk within the stipulated time.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Introduction of Government Bills

1. **Minister for Communications and Information:**

Cybersecurity (Amendment) Bill.

2. **Minister for Transport:**

Transport Sector (Critical Firms) Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 10/2024] – (Minister for Culture, Community and Youth) – Second Reading.

Resumption of Debate on Question (2 April 2024)

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”. – (Minister for Culture, Community and Youth).

2. Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 13/2024] – (Minister for Home Affairs) – Second Reading.
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QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether there are maximum (i) interest rates for secured and unsecured loans and (ii) late payment fees, that banks and non-bank financial institutions can charge individuals in Singapore; (b) if so, what are such rates and fees respectively; and (c) if not, whether MAS will consider introducing such maximum limits.
2. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance in view that Community Development Council (CDC) vouchers are currently issued on a per household basis (a) whether the Ministry has studied the effect of this policy affecting those who live with extended family members or sublet from main tenants; (b) whether there has been any evidence that citizens who may have greater need for such vouchers are excluded from them; and (c) whether the Ministry has explored issuing CDC vouchers on an individual basis.
3. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether he can provide an update on rehabilitation efforts for those who are self-radicalised.
4. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether he can provide an update on the measures to curb recreational drug abuse.
5. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether an update can be provided on the investigation into the individuals involved in falsely inflating circulation numbers at Singapore Press Holdings.
6. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the Ministry can provide an update on the human trafficking situation in Singapore including labour trafficking and sex trafficking; and (b) what further steps are being taken to deter such offences.
7. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether he can provide an update on the measures that have been taken to identify and apprehend the masterminds behind human trafficking in Singapore.
8. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs for each year in the past five years, how many babies are born to mothers who are (i) below 14 years old (ii) above 14 years old but below 16 years old and (iii) above 16 years old but below 20 years old.
9. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether he has any information on the reasons for the increase in suicides among persons aged 60 and above; and (b) how many of these suicides are linked to debt from gambling, medical fees or living expenses.

10. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) in each of the last three years, how many instances of overpayment to the Ministry's staff made through VITAL's payroll and claims services have been detected; (b) how many individuals have been affected; (c) what has been the total amount of overpayments made; (d) what have been the smallest and largest amounts of overpayments detected; and (e) how much has been recovered to date.
11. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Law (a) whether plea bargains continue to be offered following the publishing of the Guidelines on Reduction in Sentences for Guilty Pleas; (b) if so, under what circumstances; and (c) whether the Guidelines will recommend a further reduction in sentences where a plea bargain has been offered and agreed upon in exchange for a guilty plea.
12. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry for each year from 2022 to 2023 (a) what is the number and occupation breakdown of workers trained via the Tourism Development Fund (TDF); (b) what is (i) the number and (ii) proportion of vacancies filled by workers trained under TDF with a breakdown by tourism domains; and (c) what is the projected (i) number and nature of jobs created and (ii) increase in training availability with the recently announced top-up to the Fund.
13. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Government is working with neighbouring countries to construct a pipeline for the transportation of hydrogen; (b) whether the pipelines needed for the transportation of such hydrogen can be blended with existing natural gas pipelines; and (c) whether there are plans to construct associated hydrogen storage facilities in Singapore; and (d) if so, what are the target operational dates for such infrastructure to support Singapore's National Hydrogen Strategy.
14. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what is the maximum number of concurrent users that the NEA ePortal can accommodate; (b) whether the number of users has frequently exceeded this maximum capacity when the e-appointment booking for visitors parking at Choa Chu Kang Columbarium and Mandai Columbarium is opened during the Qing Ming period; and (c) whether there are plans to upgrade the NEA ePortal to improve the e-appointment booking process.
15. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether more can be done to further reduce the amount of food waste generated; and (b) whether the infrastructure and ecosystem to treat and recycle food waste have been efficient so far.
16. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry has assessed if instituting one written Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) examination sitting for Mother Tongue Language (MTL) subjects will result in additional psychological stress and pressure on students arising from (i) having only one chance to pass MTL examinations instead of two previously and (ii) sitting for the MTL examination together with other subject examinations when they could previously focus on the latter after clearing the former in the middle of the year.
17. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Education in the past five years (a) how many students in the Gifted Education Programme (GEP) have applied for Direct School Admission (DSA) into secondary schools; and (b) how many students in GEP have been successful in at least one DSA application.
18. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development whether there are any plans to progressively train educators who are able to care for and teach children with special needs and place such educators in all pre-schools.
19. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health for each year in the past five years, what is the mean and median number of days that couples wait before getting their first appointment for assisted reproductive treatments at public hospitals.

20. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how will the Ministry ensure that informed consent procedures for the treatment of mental health conditions including whether institutionalisation is needed, are ethical, adaptable, and respect patient autonomy while prioritising their well-being; (b) how do informed consent procedures apply in situations where patients are minors or where parents or guardians lack understanding or are the cause of the mental health issues; and (c) whether specific guidelines will be developed for informed consent in mental health care.
21. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how will the Government work with the insurance industry to improve coverage for mental healthcare services to ensure patients can access affordable and timely intervention; and (b) whether there are plans to explore alternative financing or subsidy models for mental health care in collaboration with the private sector.
22. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the range of monthly payout of claims made under CareShield Life since it was first implemented; and (b) whether the premium-to-claim economics can be further improved.
23. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what are the fixed and recurring costs of each major component of the HDB Green Towns Programme including rooftop solar panels and electric vehicle chargers; and (b) whether residents of these towns bear the costs through higher service and conservancy charges.
24. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) since the last update on 4 July 2023, whether the number of HDB blocks with flats which still do not have same floor lift access have decreased; and (b) in each of the next three years, what is the projected number of HDB blocks which will be offered the Lift Upgrading Programme.
25. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) why has the Censorship Review Committee (CRC) that is to be formed once every decade not been convened since 2009; (b) whether the Government intends to reconvene the CRC in view of rapid changes in Singapore's media and social landscape; and (c) if so, when.
26. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information whether SPH Media Trust has raised funding from sources other than the Government and, if so, how much.
27. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information given the absence of a 'right to erasure' clause, whether the Personal Data Protection Act 2012 provides for (i) individuals who have not given consent for the collection, use, or disclosure of their personal data and requiring an organisation to delete their personal data upon request and (ii) the recourse for such individuals if the organisation does not do so.
28. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth whether the Ministry can provide an update on the initiatives under the Sports Facilities Master Plan to provide more sport facilities in community areas such as the redevelopment of the Farrer Park Swimming Complex.
29. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) what are the roles of co-operatives (co-ops) in Singapore's society and economy; (b) whether Singapore needs new co-ops to meet the evolving social-economic landscape; and (c) whether the roles and social missions of co-ops can be strengthened as a stronger social compact is built under the Forward Singapore vision.

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- 30. Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Manpower since 1 September 2023, what is the percentage of successful new Employment Pass applicants who received (i) an exemption from the COMPASS eligibility criteria (ii) zero points for having over 25% of the candidate's nationality among the organisation's PMETs (iii) zero points for having no degree-equivalent qualifications and (iv) 10 points automatically because the company has less than 25 employees, respectively.
- 31. Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Manpower since the inception of MyCareersFuture (a) how many complaints have been received regarding discrepancies between job listings on MyCareersFuture and the perception arising in the hiring process that the roles have already been earmarked for designated candidates; (b) how many companies have been investigated for such job listings; (c) how many investigations have been substantiated; and (d) how many companies have been penalised.
- 32. Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore's Sustainable Air Hub Blueprint, what are the projected 2030 and 2050 business-as-usual (BAU) levels of carbon emissions from Singapore-based airlines in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂E).
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