

TENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

FIRST SESSION

ORDER PAPER

TUESDAY, 21ST JANUARY, 2003

No. 34

12.30 p.m.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Dr Amy Khor Lean Suan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance if the Ministry can consider (i) extending the deadline for the 128,000 persons who missed out on the Economic Restructuring Shares (ERS); (ii) providing some measures to reach out to this group of people; and (iii) assisting them with their top ups if they are in financial difficulties or have some other compelling reasons for being unable to do so.
- *2. **Mr Gan Kim Yong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether his Ministry will consider waiving the \$50 contribution to the Central Provident Fund (CPF) required to qualify for the Economic Restructuring Shares (ERS) in instances where the recipient is facing financial difficulties.
- *3. **Dr Lily Neo:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, in view of the large number of 128,000 persons who missed out on the Economic Restructuring Shares (ERS), will the Government consider extending the deadline for this group and waiving the \$50 top-up in the Central Provident Fund (CPF) for those with financial difficulties.
- *4. **Mr Loh Meng See:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) what are the reasons for a sizeable number of more than 100,000 citizens not topping up their CPF to benefit from the new Economic Restructuring Shares; (b) what is the profile of these citizens and why are they having difficulty to top up; and (c) will the Government be able to give them another chance to benefit from the scheme.

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- *5. **Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance if he will (i) give a breakdown of the profile of the 128,000 Singaporeans who missed out on the Economic Restructuring Shares (ERS); (ii) inform the House whether additional efforts are being made to reach out to these people and help them with the top-up, if needed; and (iii) state whether the unallocated money from the ERS will be channelled to provide more aid to the poor and needy.
- *6. **Mr Gan Kim Yong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether there have been significant incidents of profiteering arising from the revision of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to 4% from 1 January 2003 and if so, what actions have been taken so far in dealing with these incidents.
- *7. **Mr Gan Kim Yong:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how many students have approached his Ministry for financial assistance for the year 2003; (b) how many have been granted such assistance; and (c) whether there has been a significant increase in the number of students seeking the assistance compared to previous years.
- *8. **Dr Chong Weng Chiew:** To ask the Minister for Health in the light of increased emphasis on step-down services, will his Ministry allow the use of Medisave to pay for domiciliary medical and nursing care.
- *9. **Dr Amy Khor Lean Suan:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how many students, by levels, were expelled from schools for each year from 2000 to 2002; (b) whether these numbers had been increasing over the years; (c) what are the current guidelines provided by the Ministry to school principals regarding the expulsion of students; (d) what help and counselling these students are given or can turn to before and after expulsion; and (e) whether the Ministry can provide clear guidelines and assistance for their re-admission to schools, instead of asking the students and their parents to apply directly to the schools.
- *10. **Ms Braema Mathiapparanam:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how many of the 178 children who could not be traced for registration in Primary 1 have since been found; (b) how many of the 312 children who are still being traced are now in school; (c) what is the proportion of boys and girls in the cohort of 467 children who have enrolled into madrasahs; (d) what is his assessment of the implementation of how the Compulsory Education Act has been put into effect by his Ministry; and (e) what improvements, if needed, can be made to get more children into schools under this Act.

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- *11. **Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) if he will clarify the policy of disallowing former work permit holders from marrying Singaporeans even after they have ceased being a work permit holder; and (b) if his Ministry will consider a timeframe for which a former work permit holder who has ceased holding the work permit, be allowed to marry a Singaporean without facing charges of violating his work permit agreement.
- *12. **Mr Low Thia Kiang:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) why the prices of some drugs in polyclinics are higher than those of restructured hospitals; and (b) how can the Government ensure that polyclinic patients will get the best deal in drug prices.
- *13. **Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs if his Ministry will consider (i) allowing motorcyclists holding Singapore passports to use the less jammed car lanes at the Tuas and Woodlands checkpoints, so as to alleviate the long jams caused by Malaysian motorcyclists returning home after work and (ii) adding more staff and opening up more immigration checkpoint counters during peak hours so as to reduce the time taken for Malaysian motorcyclists to clear Singapore immigration.
- *14. **Mr Low Thia Kiang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the number of claims lodged with the Ministry by non-unionised workers against employers for unpaid wages in 2001 and 2002; (b) what is the number of claims where the claimants have not been able to fully recover their unpaid wages; and (c) what is the Ministry's response to cases where employers fail to comply with orders of the Labour Court to make payment and what further recourse is available to the claimants in such cases.
- *15. **Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Minister for Transport when will the North East Line be opened.
- *16. **Ms Braema Mathiapparanam:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development and Sports if he will consider setting up regional shelter-cum-drop-in short stay facilities for troubled teens or children to give them respite care or to help parents who need such temporary refuge for their children.
- *17. **Mr Sin Boon Ann:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development and Sports if he will consider allowing parents who have babies they cannot care for to leave them at a legally designated place without penalizing them.

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- *18. **Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry how will Singapore's convention and exhibition centres be affected by the recently completed multi-million dollar convention and exhibition hall in Yogyakarta.
- *19. **Dr Chong Weng Chiew:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what are the steps taken to increase the number of civil defence trained people in Singapore, particularly those trained in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation Skills (CPR).
- *20. **Dr Teo Ho Pin:** To ask the Minister for National Development, in view of the need to encourage healthy lifestyles among Singaporeans (a) what is the progress in the development of park connectors in Singapore; and (b) whether his Ministry will consider expediting the development.
- *21. **Dr Teo Ho Pin:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how many pets were abandoned each year; (b) what measures are being taken to address this problem; and (c) whether his Ministry will support the renting of pets by shops.
- *22. **Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the recent decision to upgrade Sennett Estate is based on the Estate's eligibility or is it a result of the promise made by the Prime Minister in the last General Election.

* Members may signify to the Clerk their desire to postpone their Questions to a later sitting day, if their Questions are not reached by the end of Question Time. The forms for postponement of Questions are available at the Chamber entrances and should be given to the Clerk at the end of Question Time.

ORDER OF THE DAY

1. **THREAT OF TERRORISM:** *Resumption of Debate on Question (20th January 2003),*

THREAT OF TERRORISM: "That this House (a) acknowledges that the terrorist threat to Singapore is real and serious; (b) supports the firm actions the Government has taken against the threat to the security of Singapore posed by the Jemaah Islamiyah group and other militant and extremist groups in the region; and (c) endorses the recommendations put forth in the White Paper on The Jemaah Islamiyah Arrests and the Threat of Terrorism, contained in Paper Cmd. 2 of 2003, to counter the terrorist threat by (i) enhancing the security measures; (ii) policing the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology; and (iii) strengthening our social cohesion and religious harmony." - (Minister for Home Affairs).

PAPERS PRESENTED

	<i>2003</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
S.L.	21	Goods and Services Tax Act (Amendment of Third Schedule) Order 2002	18th January, 2003
S.L.	22	Goods and Services Tax (General) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2002	18th January, 2003
