

ORDER PAPER

MONDAY, 11 MAY 2015

No. 37

1.30 pm

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Ms Irene Ng Phek Hoong:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide an update on the assistance that Singapore has rendered to Nepal following the earthquake on 25 April 2015.
- *2. **Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs what is the assistance which Singapore has rendered to Nepal to help Nepal recover from the recent earthquake that took place on 25 April 2015.
- *3. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) whether he can provide an update on the progress of preparations for the 28th Southeast Asian Games to be held in June 2015; (b) what is the number of sports that will be featured; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider having a special exhibition accessible to SEA Games participants and the public that showcases Singapore's relations with its ASEAN neighbours over the past 50 years.
- *4. **Mr Thomas Chua Kee Seng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower how can companies that are outside of the 17 priority sectors in the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme participate in the programme.
- *5. **Mr Thomas Chua Kee Seng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether trade associations from the non-priority sectors can be supported with more resources and funding to develop their industry manpower plan under the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme.
- *6. **Er Dr Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether the Ministry is aware of how many Singaporeans are invested as individual owners of properties in Iskandar Malaysia; and (b) how are our banks safeguarded against any major default in property loans to these buyers.

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- *7. Mr Yee Jenn Jong:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) when will electric vehicles (EVs) be made available to the public under the Electric Vehicle Phase 2 car-sharing programme; (b) what is the rationale for Phase 2 to have a much longer duration of up to 10 years compared to Phase 1; (c) whether ownership of EVs, other than the car-sharing programme, will be encouraged under Phase 2; and (d) if so, whether the Ministry will work with the Ministry of Transport to look at varying the vehicle's Additional Registration Fee (ARF) and giving COE rebates to make the cost of EVs comparable to that of non-electric vehicles.
- *8. Prof Tan Tai Yong:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) to date, how many honorary scholarships (scholarships with no funding) has the Public Service Commission given out; (b) when was the last occurrence and what was this scholarship given out for; and (c) what are the reasons for this class of scholarships and whether these reasons can apply to a wider range of students.
- *9. Mr Baey Yam Keng:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information in light of SMRT's announcement that it will work with OMGTel to bid for Singapore's fourth wireless telecommunications carrier licence, how does the Ministry ensure that high telecommunication service standards are maintained if the partners of the licences do not have proven track records.
- *10. Mr Baey Yam Keng:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether SMRT's collaboration with OMGTel to bid for Singapore's fourth wireless telecommunications carrier licence will affect the public transport services provided by SMRT; and (b) whether the Government can and will impose conditions to ensure that the public interest in the provision of public transport services is not compromised.
- *11. Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether he can provide a further update on the progress of the high-speed rail project that will connect Singapore and Kuala Lumpur; and (b) what will the Ministry be doing in the next few years to ensure timely completion of the project.

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- *12. Ms Kuik Shiao-Yin:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) what inter-cultural and inter-religious programmes are in place to actively rehabilitate youth offenders who make seditious remarks against other races and religions; and (b) whether engagement and mentorship from representatives of religious or racial groups are integrated into the rehabilitative care of such youth offenders.
- *13. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Government plans to extend the moratorium on additional casino licences once the current 10-year moratorium on the current two licences expires in 2016; and (b) whether Singaporeans will be consulted well in advance of any plans to issue additional casino licences.
- *14. Mr Hri Kumar Nair:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the Ministry will consider stronger sanctions against employers who fail to pay, or wrongfully withhold, wages, whether to local or foreign employees.
- *15. Dr Janil Puthuchery:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether existing penalties are sufficient deterrents against serious crimes such as vandalism or hurt committed by youths and young persons; (b) if not, whether there are plans to strengthen the current laws; and (c) whether the Ministry is considering alternative mechanisms to discourage such behaviour.
- *16. Assoc Prof Fatimah Lateef:** To ask the Minister for Health whether there are plans to make it compulsory for general practitioners, family medicine practitioners and dental practitioners to enrol into the Chronic Disease Management Programme and Community Health Assist Scheme.
- *17. Mr Png Eng Huat:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) from 2010 to 2014, what are all the universities that new citizens and permanent residents declared to ICA as the awarding institution for their highest qualification when applying for citizenship and PR status respectively; (b) how does ICA check the validity of such education qualifications listed in these applications; and (c) whether ICA keeps a list of suspected degree mills to aid the verification process.

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- *18. Prof Tan Tai Yong:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether there are avenues for private "O" level candidates to interact with students and make use of the facilities such as laboratories and sports equipment in mainstream schools; (b) whether the Ministry can consider a structured programme for these private candidates to participate as CCA members outside of the formal curriculum; and (c) whether the same sort of integration can be done for primary school children who are home-schooled.
- *19. Dr Benedict Tan:** To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry will consider shifting key school sports competitions to the night during the rainy season, to avoid the 2-6 pm thunderstorm peak hours, and to facilitate attendance by parents, extended family, and alumni.
- *20. Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** To ask the Minister for Health over the past five years (a) what is the success rate of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatments in public and private hospitals; (b) how many Singaporean couples have been undertaking these treatments and what are their rates of success; and (c) what percentage of these treatments are funded under the Government subsidy for assisted reproduction technology treatments.
- *21. Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Minister for National Development in light of the recent incident where a toddler's head is caught between the ledge of the service yard of a HDB flat and a laundry pole, whether HDB will consider improving the design of service yards in HDB flats.
- *22. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Manpower when processing S Pass and Employment Pass applications (a) what checks does the Ministry conduct to determine if (i) the academic qualifications and work experience stated in the applications are true and correct and (ii) the academic qualifications are obtained from accredited educational institutions; and (b) since 2012, what percentage of S pass and Employment Pass applications have been subject to these checks.
- *23. Mr Png Eng Huat:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the Public Service Division will consider setting up a central authority to screen foreign degrees for public service employment purposes in light of the proliferation of degree programmes and degrees of varying qualities offered in the education industry.
- *24. Mr Baey Yam Keng:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources why smoking is currently prohibited only at certain parks and not at all parks.

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- *25. **Er Dr Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the high noise level along Khatib station's MRT track, especially in the early morning and at night; (b) whether Khatib MRT station is among the locations to have noise barriers installed; and (c) what are the interim measures to mitigate the noise levels of trains running close to residential units.
- *26. **Mr David Ong Kim Huat:** To ask the Minister for Transport what other noise mitigation measures besides the installation of noise barriers are being considered for residential areas in Bukit Batok that are located close to MRT tracks.
- *27. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Department of Statistics has an updated figure for the Average Household Expenditure on Basic Needs (AHEBN); (b) how frequently does the Department intend to publish the AHEBN; and (c) whether the Department plans to define AHEBN for different types of households, including those of persons with disabilities.
- *28. **Er Dr Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry whether the Government will consider introducing measures to help small retailers in shopping malls by (i) disallowing the practice of landlords pegging the rental charge to the tenant retailers' sales volume when renewing their leases; and (ii) introducing a platform by which tenants can take reference on what should be the fair market rates for the shop rent.
- *29. **Assoc Prof Fatimah Lateef:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether there is a comprehensive and integrated plan with multi-agency inputs to review and uplift the conditions of foreign worker dwellings at Lorongs 1 to 42 of Geylang.
- *30. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) what are the rehabilitative aspects of corrective training; and (b) how effective has it been in reforming individuals caught in a cycle of re-offending.

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- *31. Ms Kuik Shiao-Yin:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the number of full time, part-time and casual labour employed in the local funeral industry from 2010 to 2014; (b) what is the Ministry's projected human resource needs of the funeral industry for the coming decade; and (c) how is the Ministry working with the Ministry of Education to set up mortuary science or funeral directing courses to ensure that human resource needs of Singapore's funeral industry for the next decade are being met.
- *32. Ms Kuik Shiao-Yin:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether there are distinctions in how students of 7-12 years old, 13-18 years old, and Institutes of Higher Learning are being sensitised to inter-cultural issues and coached in thoughtful communication over racial and religious issues; and (b) how are youths being educated in issues of online communication particularly the issues of online mob mentality and the social, political and legal boundaries surrounding online postings.
- *33. Assoc Prof Fatimah Lateef:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) over the last three years, what is the take-up rate for the HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccination amongst the recommended age group of 9 to 26 year-old females; and (b) what course of action is being planned to enhance the take-up rate.
- *34. Ms Lee Li Lian:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether ex-offenders qualify to apply for the taxi vocational licence and, if not, what are the reasons.
- *35. Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the person involved in the track intrusion at the North-South Line near Chua Chu Kang MRT that disrupted services on 27 February 2015 has been identified and arrested; and (b) what measures have been taken to prevent such future track intrusions.

***36. Mr Yee Jenn Jong:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what are the results of the two diesel hybrid bus trials conducted by the public transport operators since 2010; (b) what are the costs incurred for conducting those trials; (c) what are the lessons learnt from those trials that can be applied to the new one-year diesel hybrid bus trial mentioned in the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint 2015; and (d) when will diesel hybrid buses be implemented on a larger scale in Singapore.

* Members may postpone their Questions to a later sitting day if their Questions are not reached by the end of Question Time. The postponement forms are available at the Chamber entrances. To ensure timely notice of such postponements, Members should submit their notices to the Clerk by 4.00 pm. Questions will be given a written answer if no such notices are received by the Clerk.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Introduction of Government Bills

1. Prime Minister:

Financial Advisers (Amendment) Bill.

2. Prime Minister:

Insurance (Amendment) Bill.

3. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance:

Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Bill.

4. Minister for Law:

Bankruptcy (Amendment) Bill.

5. Minister for Transport:

Maritime Offences (Amendment) Bill.

6. Minister for Education:

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Amendment) Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Monetary Authority of Singapore (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 11/2015] – (Prime Minister) – Second Reading.
 2. Government Securities (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 12/2015] – (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance) – Second Reading.
 3. Unmanned Aircraft (Public Safety and Security) Bill [Bill No. 13/2015] – (Minister for Transport) – Second Reading.
 4. Third-Party Taxi Booking Service Providers Bill [Bill No. 14/2015] – (Minister for Transport) – Second Reading.
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QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Er Dr Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the Police has received complaints about (i) the activities of itinerant door-to-door salesmen who peddle their wares when most people are at work leaving only the domestic helpers, the elderly and the children at home; (ii) the coercion put on residents by these salesmen to let them into their homes; (b) what are the common complaints received about such salesmen; (c) what action has been taken; and (d) whether Neighbourhood Police Posts can organise campaigns for HDB residents on what to do when such salesmen call at their homes.
2. **Ms Foo Mee Har:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether charities and Institutions of a Public Character are eligible to buy Singapore Savings Bonds; and (b) if so, whether a higher investment cap can be applied to these organisations as compared to individual investors.
3. **Mr Ang Hin Kee:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether are there adequate spaces for the parking or stopping of tour buses to ensure safe boarding and alighting of tourists at attraction sites such as the Merlion Park and Chinatown as well as the smooth flow of other motorists in those areas; and (b) what are the common challenges faced by our tour guides and tour bus drivers in ensuring their own safety and those of the tourists they are in-charge of at attraction sites.

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4. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether he can clarify what the definition of "lifetime wage" is, for the purpose of qualification for the Silver Support Scheme and what is the rationale for this criterion.
 5. **Mr Ang Hin Kee:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the Ministry will consider introducing a scheme, similar to the Temporary Employment Credit scheme, whereby the Government does a CPF top-up for freelancers and self-employed individuals who make voluntary contributions into their CPF or Medisave Account.
 6. **Mr Ang Hin Kee:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the Ministry can provide an update on (a) whether the current level of Central Provident Fund (CPF) savings for freelancers and self-employed individuals are adequate for their retirement and medical needs; and (b) what further measures have been put in place to encourage them to make regular CPF contributions or savings into their Medisave Account to finance the premiums for MediShield Life.
 7. **Mr Seah Kian Peng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what are the regulations on rental of properties by foreign workers; (b) what regulatory powers are available to public officers who knock on doors but are denied entry; (c) over the past year, how many checks have been conducted on suspected illegal rentals of HDB flats to foreign workers; (d) how many have been evicted and whether these numbers have increased over the years; and (e) what measures are in place to encourage residents and community leaders to report suspected overcrowding in rental flats and whether these need to be improved.
 8. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) of the 12,930 workers laid off in 2014, how many were (i) citizens and (ii) permanent residents; and (b) of the residents (citizens and permanent residents), how many received retrenchment benefits (over and above notice period pay) that are equivalent to their last drawn salary of (i) more than 6 months; (ii) between 4 and 6 months inclusive; (iii) between 1 and 3 months inclusive; (iv) less than 1 month; and (v) none at all.
 9. **Assoc Prof Randolph Tan:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what are the number and proportions of PMEs who have successfully found jobs through CaliberLink each year since its launch in 2012; and (b) whether the introduction of the Jobs Bank has had any impact on CaliberLink's career services.

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10. **Assoc Prof Randolph Tan:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the Ministry's assessment of the outcomes of the Max Talent place-and-train programme; (b) what are the main reasons which cause participating PME's to leave within six months of joining an SME under that programme; and (c) whether there are factors which will cause the enhanced programme known as P-Max to perform differently.
 11. **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information in respect of the Prime Minister's speech at the Founders Forum Smart Nation Singapore Reception on 20 April 2015, whether there have been any cyber security incidents involving IT systems belonging to the Government.
 12. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how many properties were sold in each of the last 10 years for more than \$1.5 million, with a break down by residential, commercial and industrial properties; (b) of those sold for above \$1.5 million, what were the (i) average and (ii) median selling prices, with a break down by residential, commercial and industrial properties.
 13. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for National Development in the last three years, how many Singaporeans have purchased after subsidy (i) 2-room BTO flats for less than \$20,000 and \$40,000 respectively (ii) 3-room BTO flats for less than \$100,000 and \$120,000 respectively and (iii) 4-room BTO flats for less than \$250,000.
 14. **Mr Png Eng Huat:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources (a) over the past five years, what is the number of feedback that PUB has received each year on low water pressure from HDB flat dwellers; (b) how are these feedback addressed; (c) why is there no requirement to specify the minimum pressure for the supply of water to individual HDB flats under the Code of Practice for Water Services; and (d) whether PUB will consider doing so.
 15. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs in light of apparent satellite images showing China building an airstrip on contested territory in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, what is the Ministry's assessment on how this may affect long-term peace and cooperation within ASEAN and the surrounding region.

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16. **Mr Seah Kian Peng:** To ask the Minister for Health whether there will be a review of the pricing policy of items sold at various Government and restructured hospital pharmacies to further widen the price points between items sold at these pharmacies and in the retail industry so as to make them more affordable to the public at the hospital pharmacies.
 17. **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Ministry has plans to (i) upgrade Chua Chu Kang Bus Interchange to cope with increased bus services, commuter demand, and resident population growth by 2016 with new BTO developments in Keat Hong; and (ii) develop Chua Chu Kang Bus Interchange into an integrated transport hub.
 18. **Ms Tin Pei Ling:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) how is enforcement carried out to prevent cyclists riding in areas where cycling is prohibited such as covered walkways and overhead bridges; (b) what is being done to better ensure the safety of the general public especially in such areas; and (c) whether he can provide an update on the consultation exercise on wider use of bicycles, motorised bicycles and scooters.
 19. **Mr Yee Jenn Jong:** To ask the Minister for Education for each year since 2000 what is (i) the number of students per full-time faculty member; (ii) the number of students per teaching staff including full-time faculty and part-time teaching staff; and (iii) the number of students per non-teaching staff including administrators, full-time research staff and full-time research support staff, for all our autonomous universities and broken down by university.
 20. **Mr Yee Jenn Jong:** To ask the Minister for Education since 2000 (a) what are the respective annual levels in dollar amounts of (i) government funding; (ii) philanthropic and private giving; (iii) university endowments; (iv) income from auxiliary enterprises, including but not limited to hospitals, enterprise incubators, and rental space; and (v) research income including but not limited to grants, for our universities; and (b) for each group (i) what is the breakdown as a percentage of the total budget for autonomous universities and per university; and (ii) what is the dollar amount per university student and as a percentage of spending per university student.

- 21. Mr Yee Jenn Jong:** To ask the Minister for Education since 2000 (a) what are the respective annual expenditures in dollar amounts on (i) instruction, including salaries for faculty and other teaching staff; (ii) student services, including student support, activities, and job placement; (iii) financial assistance to students; (iv) research, including equipment, space, salaries for non-teaching research staff and research support staff; (v) administration; (vi) capital investment, facility maintenance and leases, for our universities; and (b) for each group (i) what is the breakdown as a percentage of the total budget for autonomous universities and per university; and (ii) what is the dollar amount per university student and as a percentage of spending per university student.
- 22. Ms Kuik Shiao-Yin:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how does the Ministry work with the Health Promotion Board and the Ministry of Social and Family Development to promote greater awareness among parents and early childhood teachers on how to assess early on whether a child has special needs versus just being disobedient; (b) how does the Ministry work with the Ministry of Health to (i) cater to the psychological and social-emotional aspects of special needs children and (ii) help parents cope with children with mental health issues; and (c) whether the Ministry has support groups for parents of children with special needs as part of the education infrastructure.
- 23. Ms Kuik Shiao-Yin:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development what state support is provided to rehabilitate youth offenders whose crimes may be the result of lapses in care for their personality disorders or other mental health issues.

PAPERS PRESENTED

<i>2015</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
S.	19	Advice of the Council of Presidential Advisers on the Appointment of Judicial Commissioner 10 April 2015
S.L.	82	Goods and Services Tax (General) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2015 16 April 2015
S.L.	83	Road Traffic (Electronic Road Pricing System) (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2015 17 April 2015

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

<i>2015</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
Pres. Co. 11	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Housing and Development (Amendment) Bill [Bill No 10/2015]	..... 22 April 2015
S.L. 84	Central Provident Fund (Division of Fund-Related Assets in Matrimonial Proceedings) (Amendment) Regulations 2015	..... 28 April 2015
S.L. 85	Central Provident Fund (Nominations and Nominee Accounts) (Amendment) Regulations 2015	..... 28 April 2015
S.L. 86	Central Provident Fund (Lifelong Income Scheme) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2015	..... 28 April 2015
S.L. 87	Central Provident Fund (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2015	..... 28 April 2015
S.L. 88	Central Provident Fund (Approved Housing Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations 2015	..... 28 April 2015
S.L. 89	Central Provident Fund (Approved HDB-HUDC) Housing Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2015	..... 28 April 2015
S.L. 90	Central Provident Fund (Ministry of Defence Housing Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2015	..... 28 April 2015
S.L. 91	Central Provident Fund (Non-Residential Properties Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2015	..... 28 April 2015

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

<i>2015</i>			<i>Date Presented</i>
S.L.	92	Central Provident Fund (Residential Properties Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2015	..... 28 April 2015
S.L.	93	Road Traffic (Electronic Road Pricing System) Rules 2015	..... 30 April 2015
S.	20	Annual Report of the President Industrial Arbitration Court 2014	..... 5 May 2015
S.L.	94	Public Utilities (Fees) Regulations 2015	..... 7 May 2015
S.L.	95	Sewerage and Drainage (Fees) Regulations 2015	..... 7 May 2015
