

ORDER PAPER

TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2015

No. 39

1.30 pm

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Mr Zainal Sapari:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether he can provide an update on the plans to assist the elderly and physically challenged who require direct lift access but whose HDB blocks are deemed unsuitable for the Lift Upgrading Programme on the grounds of economic and/or technical viability.
- *2. **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what are the measures to help residents who do not benefit from the Lift Upgrading Programme (LUP) or who do not have a lift on their floor; (b) how many of such units have approached HDB for assistance to allow them to purchase another unit or move into new flats for lift access; (c) whether the Ministry provides special consideration for such cases as many may need lifts for mobility reasons and in their old age have difficulty getting new loans from HDB or have already taken two concessionary loans; (d) how many residential units are currently still not able to benefit from having a lift on their floor as the block does not qualify for LUP; and (e) what proportion of these units is due to technical infeasibility and what proportion is due to insufficient units to meet the maximum share cap for the project.
- *3. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the outcome of the trial involving two new lift solutions to provide direct lift access to flats not eligible for the Lift Upgrading Programme (LUP); and (b) whether HDB has found the lift solutions suitable to be implemented for flats not eligible for LUP.
- *4. **Dr Intan Azura Mokhtar:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs whether the Ministry will consider allowing HDB flat or private apartment owners to have the flexibility of not allowing their rental tenants to use their home address on their NRICs so as to minimise the possibility of harassment as a result of legal or illegal money lending activities.

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- *5. **Mr David Ong Kim Huat:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) in the last three years, what is the number of cases of identity card holders who contravene the National Registration Act of not updating their residential addresses within 28 days; and (b) what can the Ministry do to increase enforcement, awareness and compliance to curb abuses.
- *6. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) how many times have the police exercised its 'move-on powers' since they have been entrusted with such powers through the Public Order Act; (b) whether these powers have enabled the police to diffuse potentially violent situations and maintain order; and (c) if so, whether examples of such situations can be provided.
- *7. **Dr Benedict Tan:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) given the success of the recent South East Asian Games, how will the Ministry ensure that there is a lasting legacy; and (b) what will the Ministry do to ride on the momentum.
- *8. **Dr Chia Shi-Lu:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) since the launch of ActiveSG, how many Singaporeans and permanent residents have signed up for membership; (b) whether these numbers have met the Ministry's targets; and (c) if not, what plans does the Ministry have to boost utilisation of ActiveSG credits.
- *9. **Ms Chia Yong Yong:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) how will the Smart Nation project benefit persons with disabilities; and (b) whether there will be initiatives that build assistive technology capabilities within the social service sector and increase access of persons with disabilities to technology and assistive technology devices.
- *10. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) what is the number of problem gambling cases recorded by the National Council on Problem Gambling in the last three years; (b) what kind of counselling sessions are utilised to help these problem gamblers break out of the vicious cycle of gambling; and (c) what role do family members and the community play as points of support to help these individuals overcome their gambling problem.
- *11. **Ms Irene Ng Phek Hoong:** To ask the Prime Minister how will the default by Greece on its debt owed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) impact Singapore, the region and the rest of the global economy and whether there are lessons to be drawn from this crisis which sees Greece becoming the first developed country to default on an IMF debt.

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- *12. **Mr Alex Yam Ziming:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether there are plans to relocate and expand the Choa Chu Kang Bus Interchange that has been in service since 1991 so as to address issues of overcrowding and congestion due to new buses introduced under the Bus Service Enhancement Programme.
- *13. **Er Dr Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether motorised bicycle riders are allowed to carry a pillion passenger; (b) how many accidents are there involving motorised bicycles in the past three years; and (c) whether there is an inter-ministry consultation on the importation of motorised bicycles.
- *14. **Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs whether the Home Team agencies have in place adequate rules and regulations to govern the use of coloured powder at large outdoor events.
- *15. **Dr Chia Shi-Lu:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs what measures are in place to minimise combustible dust hazards for events including the Colour Run.
- *16. **Mr Yeo Guat Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether foreign worker levies no longer serve their original objective but only erode companies' margins; (b) whether reducing or doing away with the levies will benefit the Singapore workforce; and (c) what plans does the Ministry have to help our businesses, particularly SMEs, cope with their manpower challenges.
- *17. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) in the past eight years, what has been the percentage and absolute number of growth of (i) foreign workers in total (ii) foreign workers in each industry/sector/segment; (b) what is the projected number of (i) foreign domestic helpers (ii) care givers (iii) healthcare workers for the next 15 years in view of the increase in the ageing population with 900,000 Singaporeans above the age of 65 years; and (c) whether the Government intends to reduce or cap the growth of foreign workers.
- *18. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether he can provide an assessment of the impact that the various Asia-Africa meetings, held in Jakarta in April 2015, will have on increasing trade and economic cooperation between Africa and ASEAN.
- *19. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether first-time HDB applicants with foreign spouses are eligible for the Married Child Priority Scheme (MCPS) and, if not, whether HDB can consider including them in this scheme.

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- *20. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Government is concerned about the recent record price of \$31 million paid for a coffee shop in Bukit Batok which follows the \$23.8 million transaction in 2013 for a coffee shop in Hougang; and (b) what measures is the Government taking (i) to mitigate the downstream impact of such high transactions on stall rentals and the price of cooked food in those coffee shops; and (ii) to prevent property speculation in coffee shops which many lower income residents depend on for affordable food.
- *21. Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) if he can elaborate on the senior group homes model for elderly Singaporeans in public housing blocks; (b) how many of such homes and beneficiaries are there in Singapore currently; and (c) whether the Ministry will work with HDB to make such senior group homes more prevalent in all housing estates.
- *22. Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development whether the Ministry can simplify the current process and reduce the costs incurred by family members who wish to be appointed as deputies of persons with disabilities under the Mental Capacity Act.
- *23. Er Dr Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in order to help those self-employed who may not have sufficient savings in the CPF to buy a house (a) whether the Ministry can allow the CPF account holder, upon reaching his contribution ceiling for Medisave, to channel the excess contributions to his Ordinary Account instead of the Special or Retirement Account; and (b) if the CPF account holder can prove that he has substantial insurance policies to cover future medical expenses, whether he can be allowed to opt to only contribute to his Ordinary Account.
- *24. Er Dr Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) over the last three years, how many foreign domestic workers have been hospitalised and how many of them have hospitalisation bills exceeding \$15,000; and (b) what can be done to encourage insurance companies to provide employers of foreign domestic workers with options to purchase medical insurance with higher medical benefits for their foreign domestic workers.
- *25. Ms Chia Yong Yong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs what is the protocol adopted in police investigations when the suspect can be suffering from disorders such as autism spectrum disorders or other psychological disorders, in order that an early assessment may be ordered prior to the suspect being charged in court so as to prevent a conviction prior to any such assessment especially in relation to young persons who can be suffering from such disorders.

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- *26. Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs whether the police will consider working more closely with other agencies to trace missing persons especially when the missing persons are diagnosed with dementia or other similar medical conditions.
- *27. Mr Arthur Fong:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether HDB will consider (i) installing double glazed windows for the bedrooms of flats that are to be built near MRT lines, expressways or busy trunk roads leading to and from expressways; (ii) retrofitting existing bedroom casement windows to double glazed windows; and (iii) including the retrofitting programme for flats built near noisy junctions or roads with heavy traffic.
- *28. Dr Chia Shi-Lu:** To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry will consider extending subsidies under the MOE-Aided Dyslexia Association of Singapore Literacy Programme (MAP) to Singaporean children with dyslexia who are attending special education schools so as to ease the financial burden on their families.
- *29. Ms Chia Yong Yong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) what is the current number of persons with disabilities employed in the Civil Service and the percentage when computed against the current total employment number within the Civil Service; and (b) whether the Civil Service has specific plans to redesign jobs with a view to employing persons with disabilities.
- *30. Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether an inter-Ministry task force can be convened to actively identify and grant public sector contracts and jobs suitable for disabled and elderly citizens and to recognise the public agencies who will do so on a sustainable basis.

* 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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Bankruptcy (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 18/2015] – (Minister for Law)

Resumption of Debate on Question (13 July 2015)

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”. – (Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law).

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2. Maritime Offences (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 19/2015] – (Minister for Transport) – Second Reading.
 3. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 20/2015] – (Minister for Education) – Second Reading.
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QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Mr Yee Jenn Jong:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether he can provide a breakdown of the projects undertaken under SPRING Singapore's Partnerships for Capability Transformation (PACT) programme by industry sectors; and (b) whether more efforts will be channelled towards expanding PACT in the services sector.
2. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Manpower since the beginning of 2015 (a) how many unemployed Singaporean workers gave up looking for work; and (b) how this figure compares with the same period in 2014.
3. **Mrs Lina Chiam:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether there can be a policy for residents to be consulted and a poll taken when there is to be a conversion of HDB void deck spaces for the specific uses of voluntary welfare organisations, grassroot organisations, town councils and constituency offices.
4. **Mrs Lina Chiam:** To ask the Minister for Defence (a) what is the current ratio of psychiatrists and case managers to national servicemen (per 100 servicemen) respectively; and (b) since 2005, how many national servicemen have been exempted from their NS duties because of mental health disorders.
5. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Defence (a) what has been the general feedback on the recently implemented changes to the Individual Physical Proficiency Test (IPPT); and (b) how confident is the Ministry that this new IPPT will better test the physical readiness of full-time national servicemen and operationally-ready national servicemen to carry out their combat vocational roles.

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6. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources (a) whether Singapore's mean daily temperature may increase by as much as 4.6 degrees Celsius by the end of the century; and (b) what measures has Singapore taken to attempt to achieve international consensus on taking concrete steps to reduce the rate of global warming.
7. **Mrs Lina Chiam:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development how will the demand for childcare places be met in mature estates under the Remaking Our Heartland programme where they are substantially built up and there is less flexibility to build new facilities due to limited land.
8. **Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth when will the Community Disputes Resolution Tribunals be set up and made operational.
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PAPERS PRESENTED

	<i>2015</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
S.	38	Annual Report of Home Affairs Uniformed Services (INVEST Fund) for Financial Year 2014/2015 10 July 2015
S.	39	Commissioner of Charities Annual Report 2014 13 July 2015
Cmd.	5	Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2014/15 13 July 2015
Cmd.	6	Report on Registration of Births and Deaths 13 July 2015
