

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE  
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER  
FRIDAY, 1 MARCH 2024

No. 128

10.30 am

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER\*

- \*1. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what are the specific measures to ensure widespread implementation of the new salary guidelines for the community care sector; (b) what are the incentives in place to encourage community care institutions to comply with the guidelines; (c) how will the Ministry conduct the monitoring of salaries; and (d) what factors will be considered when reviewing the guidelines.
- \*2. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the rationale for the existence of separate salary guidelines for the community care sector issued by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social and Family Development through the National Council of Social Service; and (b) whether the Ministries will collaborate to develop a unified set of salary guidelines to avoid confusion within the community care sector and to ensure consistency and clarity for both employers and employees.
- \*3. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the projected increase in operational costs for community care institutions to adopt the new salary guidelines; (b) how will institutions run by voluntary welfare organisations with a tight budget be affected; (c) whether the increase in service costs will be passed on to beneficiaries; (d) whether the Ministry will help institutions to subsidise salary increments; and (e) what support will be provided to help institutions to attract and retain staff.
- \*4. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Transport in 2023 (a) what is the number of times public transport commuters who were charged twice for the same bus or MRT trip because they used a different SimplyGo device or card for their entry and exit; (b) what was the total amount charged; (c) how many applications for refunds were made; (d) how many applications were acceded to; and (e) what was the total amount refunded.
- \*5. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Ministry will consider providing educational materials and instructional procedures to commuters (i) to avoid using different devices or cards when entering and exiting buses and MRTs and (ii) to apply for refunds should any double charging occur; and (b) whether fare gates can prevent commuters from exiting if they attempt to use a different device or card from the ones they used during entry.
- \*6. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the Ministry will consider imposing a charge for small disposable carrier bags; (b) how many companies have voluntarily introduced their own disposable bag charge; and (c) if the data is not available, whether the Ministry will start collecting the data.
- \*7. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Education with the implementation of the changes to the Malay Language subject in the Teaching and Learning Measures for Secondary Schools revised in 2021 and, particularly, the removal of the proverb or “Peribahasa” section from the GCE O-level Malay Language examinations from 2024, how will the Ministry ensure that students will still have exposure and familiarity on the usage of proverbs in their cultural and literary sense and of its application in the modern context.

- \*8. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) 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; and (b) what assistance is provided to such families.
- \*9. **Ms Ng Ling Ling:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what have been the changes in the number of products certified under the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme in the past three years; and (b) what will the Ministry do to promote more companies to have more green-labelled products.
- \*10. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether he can provide an update on the testing undertaken by the Ministry of a prototype of the Multi-Mode Passive Detection System to detect wildlife and wildlife products in shipments; and (b) whether the Ministry is exploring the use of other technologies to detect illegal shipments of wildlife and wildlife products especially through our ports.
- \*11. **Ms Ng Ling Ling:** To ask the Prime Minister in each of the past three years, what is the proportion of annual births from women who are (i) 30 years old and below (ii) between 31 and 35 years old and (iii) 36 years old and above, respectively.

\* 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](mailto: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.

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#### ORDER OF THE DAY

1. Estimates for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 (Paper Cmd. 27 of 2024) – Committee of Supply (Progress: 29 February 2024) (3<sup>rd</sup> Allotted Day).

*Resumption of Debate on Question (29 February 2024)*

“That the total sum to be allocated for Head R of the Estimates be reduced by \$100.” – (Mr Murali Pillai).

[For amendments to be moved in the Committee of Supply, see Supplement No. 19 dated 28 February 2024.]

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#### QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Ms Nadia Ahmad Samdin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) in the last three years, what is the number of cases where disqualified Filing Agents and individuals with cancelled Qualified Individuals status under ACRA's regulations continue to operate under different entities; and (b) what are the monitoring actions put in place by ACRA to prevent such incidents from occurring.
2. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what are the current regulations in place to control the speed of heavy vehicles on the roads; (b) whether there are plans to review or tighten the regulations controlling the speed of heavy vehicles; and (c) how does the Ministry ensure that heavy vehicle operators comply with vehicle maintenance and safety standards that can impact speeding and road safety.

3. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether he can provide details on the enforcement strategies used to deter and reduce incidents of speeding among heavy vehicle drivers; and (b) whether existing enforcement measures have been effective and, if not, what improvements are being considered.
4. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how is the Ministry leveraging on technology for the detection of speeding heavy vehicles to ensure compliance with speed limits; (b) what initiatives are in place to educate heavy vehicle drivers about the dangers of speeding and promote safe driving practices; and (c) how does the Ministry assess the effectiveness of driver education programmes in reducing speeding incidents among heavy vehicle operators.
5. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs with the increase in fatalities caused by red-light running and speeding in 2023 as compared to 2022 (a) whether there will be tougher enforcement actions being taken against offenders; and (b) whether the Traffic Police will prioritise the deployment of speed traps or red-light cameras in traffic junctions or areas where there is a high footfall of elderly, children and vulnerable pedestrians around schools, markets and shopping belts.
6. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what measures are in place to protect consumers in the e-commerce marketplace; (b) whether there are plans to introduce new protections in response to the rise in complaints; and (c) how does the Ministry ensure that consumers are aware of their rights and the protections available to them when engaging in e-commerce transactions.
7. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what avenues are available for consumers to resolve disputes with e-commerce sellers or the e-commerce platforms; (b) how effective have these avenues been in resolving disputes; and (c) whether there are any initiatives to streamline or improve the dispute resolution process for e-commerce transactions to make it more accessible and efficient for consumers.
8. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether an update can be provided on the efficacy of PUB's biomanipulation and other measures to control the midge fly population at Pandan Reservoir.
9. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what percentage of (i) non-Singaporean and (ii) non-permanent resident customers have arrears in their utility bills that are larger than their security deposit amount; (b) what measures are taken to recover these arrears; and (c) whether there is any need to increase the security deposit amount for such customers.
10. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) for each year in the past five years, what is the mean and median number of (i) students handled by each school counsellor and (ii) hours spent with each student by each school counsellor; and (b) if the data is not currently collected, whether the Ministry will consider collecting this data.
11. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Education for each year in the last five years, what is the proportion of students with disabilities admitted to (i) polytechnics and (ii) other Institutes of Higher Learning.
12. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) in the last five years, what is the number of persons with disabilities who applied for SkillsFuture courses and were rejected by training providers; (b) whether there were any rejections due to the providers being unable to provide reasonable accommodations for such applicants; (c) what are the other reasons for such rejections; and (d) whether the Ministry will collect this data, if such data is currently unavailable.

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13. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) in the last five years, what is the proportion of individuals who enrolled in SkillsFuture courses are persons with disabilities; and (b) aside from having specially curated courses at the Enabling Academy, whether the Ministry will conduct a review of protocols within the SkillsFuture scheme to increase accessibility of such courses to persons with disabilities.
  14. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health for each year in the past five years, what are the mean and median costs of counselling at public hospitals for couples undergoing assisted reproductive treatment.
  15. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what are the Government's specific plans beyond reviewing salary guidelines to ensure there is an adequate and qualified workforce to meet the expanded increase in demand for community care services as Singapore's population ages; and (b) whether the specific milestones or progress indicators to achieving this can be outlined.
  16. **Ms Nadia Ahmad Samdin:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what are the guidelines and regular maintenance programmes in place to tackle overgrown shrubbery and vegetation along roadsides in landed housing estates which compromises visibility of road signs and other traffic; and (b) what is the average time taken for relevant authorities to address such hazards once identified or reported.
  17. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the Ministry has observed any mismatch between jobs that are currently available and the skills of persons retrenched in 2023 even though the ratio of job vacancies to unemployed persons remains high.
  18. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the median distance between an MRT station exit and (i) the nearest taxi stand (ii) the nearest bus stop respectively, for stations along the Downtown Line and Thomson-East Coast Line; and (b) what are the reasons for locating taxi stands nearer to station exits than bus stops.
  19. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether any environmental impact study has been conducted to assess the impact of replacing yellow streetlights with white LED streetlights on wildlife, such as insects and birds; and (b) if not, why not.
  20. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Transport besides implementing sustainable aviation fuel for our airlines, what are the other measures that our aviation industry is taking to meet our net-zero emission targets by 2050.
  21. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Transport what are the measures to ensure that Singapore will remain a leading aviation and transportation hub in light of the requirement for all flights departing from Singapore from 2026 to use sustainable aviation fuel.
  22. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Transport with the increase in fatalities caused by red-light running and speeding in 2023 as compared to 2022 (a) what is the update on the conversion of discretionary turn signals to Red Amber Green arrows, especially in traffic junctions or areas where there is a high footfall of elderly, children and vulnerable pedestrians around schools, markets and shopping belts; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider introducing the installation of speed limiting or warning device in vehicles in the future.
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