

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER
MONDAY, 4 MARCH 2024

No. 129

10.30 am

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth what is the estimated dollar value of the net economic return expected from Government grants and subsidies issued to pop singer Taylor Swift and her team, with the aim of motivating them to hold Swift's The Eras Tour concerts in Singapore in 2024.
- *2. **Mr Xie Yao Quan:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) what is the total economic value-add expected from Taylor Swift's The Eras Tour concerts in Singapore; and (b) how were the size and conditionality of the grant offered by the Government to bring the tour to Singapore determined.
- *3. **Mr Xie Yao Quan:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) what is the total economic value-add expected from concerts held in Singapore in the first half of 2024; (b) whether the Ministry has set a target for the total economic value-add derived from hosting concerts in Singapore for the full year; (c) if so, whether the Ministry expects to be on track to achieve the full-year target; and (d) what are the Ministry's strategies to remain on track to achieve its target amidst intense regional competition.
- *4. **Mr Xie Yao Quan:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth whether the Ministry is looking into ways to make concerts by marquee acts such as Coldplay and Taylor Swift in Singapore more inclusive and accessible for Singaporeans.
- *5. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether there have been any reports of the use of nasal inhalers or "energy sticks" in Singapore, especially amongst children and students; and (b) whether the Ministry has studied (i) the effects of such inhalers and (ii) the need to treat them like vaporisers and e-cigarettes.
- *6. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development regarding the POFMA Correction Direction issued on 15 February 2024 that contained details of a couple's financial situation including their CPF and MediSave balances (a) how does this level of disclosure align with the privacy protection standards under the Public Sector (Governance) Act (PSGA); and (b) whether the Ministry considers the detailed personal financial disclosure necessary given that it can lead to identification of the couple concerned.
- *7. **Ms Nadia Ahmad Samdin:** To ask the Minister for National Development what guidelines are in place to ensure that any developments on the Southern Islands are done in a sensitive manner that preserves the cultural significance of the islands.
- *8. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health in relation to the new long-term retention scheme for nurses, whether the Ministry will consider an inflation-adjusted metric for the payouts over the course of their careers with the public healthcare service.
- *9. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) how much has been spent by the Government on the development of the local music industry over the last five years; (b) what is the nature of such spending; and (c) what have been the outcomes of the spending.

- *10. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) to what extent is there a requirement and provisioning for mobile phone reception coverage in the lifts of new HDB developments; (b) whether there can be clear requirements specified to ensure that persons can call for help in emergency situations where they cannot exit the lift and cannot physically reach the lift alarm button or if the lift alarm button has malfunctioned.
- *11. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what is the number of road accident cases related to the use of handphones when driving on the road; (b) whether there are plans to increase enforcement and penalties for the use of handphones while driving on the road; and (c) whether the Ministry can provide details on its plans to increase surveillance on the roads through having more cameras.
- *12. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) which Singapore public sector agency is the authority for (i) the definition of precinct boundaries within a residential town and (ii) the naming of precincts; (b) where are the precinct boundaries and names being published; and (c) which other groups or organisations are involved in the definition of precinct boundaries and their names.

* 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.

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: 1 March 2024) (4th Allotted Day).

Resumption of Debate on Question (1 March 2024)

“That the total sum to be allocated for Head K of the Estimates be reduced by \$100.” – (Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan).

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

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Prime Minister in respect of the President's international appointments (a) what is the estimated proportion of the Civil List that will be used to pay for the travel costs of the President and his delegation to attend international meetings; and (b) what is the estimated number of man-hours spent by civil servants to support the President in this regard.
2. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) in 2023, what percentage of tender applicants and awardees respectively for Government procurement opportunities on Government Electronic Business are local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and (b) whether there has been an increase in the number of SME tender applicants since the Government introduced the Tender Lite procurement category in 2023.
3. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance what will be done with the Goods and Services Tax that was wrongly collected on the 18 fees that were regulatory in nature if the affected taxpayers can no longer be contacted or traced.

4. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) from 2010 to 2023, how much Goods and Services Tax (GST) was generated each year from the over 5,000 fees and charges collected by Government agencies; and (b) given the difficulty in determining whether these fees are regulatory or administrative in nature, whether the Government can consider waiving GST on all Government fees and charges and, if not, why not.
5. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance for each year of the last three years, what percentage of invoices for contracted goods and services provided to the Government, above and below \$5,000 respectively, were paid within (i) five days (ii) 10 days and (iii) 30 days.
6. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether he can provide an update on the measures that the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) is studying to address the presence of microplastics in food; and (b) whether SFA has any plans to implement measures to address this issue currently and, if not, what is the threshold level of microplastics in food before the SFA will consider implementing measures.
7. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development in each of the past three years, what has been the annual median and average monthly income of single unwed parents (i) below 35 years old (ii) between 35 and 36 years old and (iii) 36 years old and above, respectively.
8. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether there is an increasing trend of couples seeking Assisted Reproductive Technology treatment at private clinics; (b) if the Ministry does not have this data, whether it intends to collect the data; and (c) if not, why not.
9. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether HDB is equipped with a sufficient number of digital infrastructure engineers and designers in the design and development of digitally ready new towns; (b) how is HDB preparing itself to be relevant in a dynamic digital built environment; and (c) how does HDB review and implement digital infrastructure upgrades for older flats and estates.
10. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what are the technological or infrastructural challenges in the development of new towns that are digitally ready to enable 5G capabilities in the design of new HDB flats; (b) what are the plans of the Ministry to ensure these flats can be retrofitted to support 5G technology in the future; and (c) whether the Ministry collaborates with telecommunication companies to address shortfall in 5G capabilities in new HDB flats and, if so, what are the outcomes of these collaborations.
11. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) for each year in the past two years, how many single unwed parents have applied to (i) purchase or (ii) rent a HDB flat from HDB, respectively; (b) how many of such applications have been rejected respectively; and (c) what are the reasons for the rejections.
12. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how many trees with a girth of more than one metre have been cut down since February 2021; and (b) whether the Singapore Green Plan 2030 goal of planting one million trees by 2030 takes into account the number of trees cut down.
13. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) what are the risks and benefits associated with widespread adoption of facial recognition technology (FRT) in Singapore; (b) what are the frameworks and oversight mechanisms currently in place to ensure the responsible and ethical use of FRT in Singapore; and (c) what steps are being taken to engage with the public and relevant stakeholders about the responsible development and application of AI technologies to FRT.

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14. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower how will the Ministry address calls for more proactive Government initiatives to safeguard employment in Singapore, including inter-ministerial collaborations to promote effective skills development, financial assistance for businesses and workers, as well as retraining and upskilling support for retrenched workers.
 15. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether he can detail the current road safety measures around schools and how these have been effective in reducing traffic-related incidents involving students; (b) what plans are there to enhance existing road safety measures near schools, especially in light of any recent incidents or feedback from school communities; (c) how is the Ministry ensuring the adequacy and safety of pedestrian crossings near schools; and (d) whether there are plans to introduce more raised zebra crossings in such areas.
 16. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Ministry is considering implementing additional speed reduction measures, such as speed bumps or lower speed limits, around school zones to further protect students; (b) what strategies are being employed or developed to manage high traffic volumes during school start and end times to minimise risks to students; and (c) how does the Ministry collaborate with schools and local communities to identify and address specific road safety concerns in school zones.
 17. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether there are ongoing or planned public awareness campaigns aimed at drivers to promote safer driving habits around schools; (b) whether the Ministry is exploring the use of technology, such as traffic cameras or digital speed signs, to enhance road safety in school zones; and (c) what initiatives are in place to promote and support safe walking and cycling routes for students commuting to and from school.
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