

**ORDER PAPER**

**FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2012**

*No. 14*

1.30 pm

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**QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER\***

- \*1. Ms Tin Pei Ling:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether there have been complaints of abuse of patients in nursing homes since June 2011; and (b) what measures have been put in place to prevent potential abuses and address any abuses discovered.
- \*2. Mrs Lina Chiam:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs what are the plans put in place to increase the staff strength of the police force and other related agencies to cope with the tsunami of foreigners and new citizens in respect of crime enforcement and other related matters.
- \*3. Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Transport with the projected population increase in Yishun, Sembawang and Woodlands towns and the expected traffic disruptions and diversions due the construction of both the North-South Expressway and the future Thomson MRT line, what additional measures is the Ministry implementing to ensure smooth traffic flow for residents in the north.
- \*4. Mr Yee Jenn Jong:** To ask the Minister for Education what is the progress on the holistic assessment approach for education at the lower primary levels that places less emphasis on semestral examinations, as recommended in the 2009 Report of the Primary Education Review and Implementation (PERI) Committee.
- \*5. Ms Ellen Lee:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Manpower (a) since the beginning of 2012, whether the Ministry has received any notification of possible retrenchments of Singaporean and non-Singaporean workers in view of the much expected slower growth this year; (b) if so, which industries are the retrenchments taking place in; (c) what are the expected numbers of Singaporeans and non-Singaporeans who will be affected; and (d) what plans does the Ministry have to help retrenched Singaporean workers.

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- \*6. Assoc Prof Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the number of Singaporeans who are employed by the public transport operators as public bus drivers over the past three years; and (b) whether he can provide information on the training and orientation provided to foreign public bus drivers employed by the public transport operators.
- \*7. Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) how many foreign public bus drivers were recruited by the public transport operators over the past three years; and (b) what are the educational and language skills criteria that the public transport operators have adopted for employment of bus drivers.
- \*8. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts (a) how does IDA track the telecoms' 3G mobile broadband coverage on MRT trains to ensure that they meet the required quality of service (QoS) standards; (b) what were the actual measured 3G mobile broadband service levels on MRT trains in the latest month with available measured data; and (c) whether IDA has plans to publish the actual measured service levels on a regular basis.
- \*9. Ms Tin Pei Ling:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) if he will provide an update on the implementation of the National Mental Health Blueprint that was proposed in 2007; (b) how are Singaporeans with mental health conditions (but not institutionalised) currently supported in the community; and (c) whether there are plans to further strengthen the network and structure of support in the community for Singaporeans with mental health conditions.
- \*10. Mrs Lina Chiam:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources for sizeable projects undertaken by his Ministry whether there are specifications given to contractors on the frequency of onsite supervision which the contractors must conduct and, if so, what is the frequency specified.
- \*11. Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports (a) whether the Ministry intends to raise the household income ceiling for the Work Support Programme and ComCare Transitions Scheme to keep up with the rising cost of living and to match the increased income ceiling of local ComCare programmes run by the Community Development Councils; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider modifying the household income ceiling requirement to reflect household size.

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- \*12. Ms Ellen Lee:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports whether there have been efforts made to persuade private sector employers to give their employees Parent Care Leave and what is the profile of employers who have agreed to grant their employees such leave.
- \*13. Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Defence (a) what is the incidence rate of cardiac events during and after Individual Physical Proficiency Tests (IPPT) over the past five years; (b) whether there are any plans to review the IPPT criteria; and (c) what additional medical screening procedures are in place to minimise such cardiac events.
- \*14. Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Manpower what is being done to assist and fund professional freelancers such as those in the creative industry, trainers and tourist guides to undergo training, upgrading and development to take them through times of economic uncertainties.
- \*15. Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Manpower (a) whether there is any regulatory framework for freelancers (who are independent contractors) to pursue late payment of their fees; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider having legislation and dispute resolution mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of freelancers.
- \*16. Mr Yee Jenn Jong:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) for the last 10 years what was the annual number of non-ASEAN foreigners who were granted scholarships by the Singapore Government to study in our pre-tertiary schools and universities and what was the annual cost of these scholarships; (b) how does the Ministry track and ensure that foreign scholars maintain good academic standards while studying here; and (c) whether the Ministry tracks foreign scholars after graduation and enforces their obligation to fulfil the contractual bond period to work in Singapore.
- \*17. Mrs Lina Chiam:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the current number of London cabs on our roads; and (b) what is the reason for SMRT Corporation's plan to phase out its fleet of London cabs next year.

\*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. Members are advised to drop the completed forms into the boxes placed at the Chamber entrances by 4.30 pm.

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### NOTICES OF MOTIONS

#### 1. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance:

CIVIL LIST: That this Parliament, pursuant to section 7 of the Civil List and Pension Act (Chapter 44), resolves that the Schedule to that Act be varied by deleting the figures "\$4,267,500", "\$2,068,300" and "\$659,300" in the second column and substituting for them the figures "\$1,568,900", "\$2,762,300" and "\$550,000" respectively.

#### 2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance:

BUDGET STATEMENT: That Parliament approves the financial policy of the Government for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

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### QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Mr Yaw Shin Leong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Manpower (a) what were the unacceptable living conditions found in the two foreign workers' dormitories visited by the Minister of State for Manpower in November 2011; (b) how does the Ministry plan to expedite the construction of additional purpose-built housing for foreign workers; and (c) when are these housing expected to be ready.
2. **Assoc Prof Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) if he will provide an update on the Lift Upgrading Programme (LUP); (b) what percentage of the eligible blocks have completed their LUP works; and (c) whether the Ministry is able to complete all LUP works by 2014.
3. **Mr Chen Show Mao:** To ask the Minister for Law what is (i) the extent of online piracy transactions in Singapore (ii) the extent to which such transactions are conducted at websites based outside of Singapore and (iii) the economic effect of such transactions.
4. **Mr Chen Show Mao:** To ask the Minister for Health whether there are regulations and standards that apply to, and approved training and development programmes for, care workers in aged care for (i) nursing homes (ii) senior activity centers (iii) day social and rehabilitative care centers (iv) home-based healthcare services and (v) home-based social care services.

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5. **Mr Chen Show Mao:** To ask the Minister for Health in each of the last three years (a) how many applications were submitted for new licences of nursing homes for the aged sick and the elderly and, of these, how many licences were granted; and (b) how many nursing homes did not receive renewals of their licences following regular audits by the Ministry.
  6. **Mr Chen Show Mao:** To ask the Minister for Health in each of the last three years (a) how many cases of serious lapses in patient care at licensed nursing homes were reported; and (b) what actions were taken by the Ministry in such cases.
  7. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Health what is the number of beds in A, B1, B2 and C class wards in each of the following hospitals (i) Singapore General Hospital (ii) National University Hospital (iii) Tan Tock Seng Hospital (iv) Changi General Hospital (v) Alexandra Hospital (vi) Khoo Teck Puat Hospital and (vii) KK Women's and Children's Hospital.
  8. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Health in each of the last 10 years, how many MediShield policyholders reached (i) the \$50,000 policy year limit; and (ii) the \$200,000 lifetime limit.
  9. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Health what are the 90th percentile inpatient charges per day in 2011 for (i) normal wards in public hospitals; (ii) ICU wards in public hospitals; and (iii) community hospitals.
  10. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the percentage of Singaporeans currently not covered by MediShield insurance; (b) of these, what proportion comes from (i) the young aged below 21 years (ii) non-working adults or spouses (iii) the elderly aged above 75 years and (iv) people who are excluded due to pre-existing illnesses or congenital anomalies; and (c) what is being done to increase the proportion of insured Singaporeans.
  11. **Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports in respect of the Public Assistance Scheme for each of the years from 2006 to 2011 (a) what was the number of applications to the Scheme; (b) what was the percentage of applications that were rejected; (c) what were the reasons for rejection and their percentages; and (d) what kinds of follow-up checks or assistance were provided to rejected applicants.

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- 12. Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports for each of the years from 2007 to 2011 (a) what was the average caseload of Family Service Centre (FSC) social workers in terms of active ongoing cases per month; (b) what was the average number of new cases per social worker assigned to FSC social workers per month; (c) what was the average number of investigations per social worker conducted by FSC social workers; and (d) what was the average number of FSC social workers per supervisor.
- 13. Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports for each of the years from 2007 to 2011 (a) what was the average caseload of Community Development Council (CDC) ComCare consultants in terms of active ongoing cases per month; (b) what was the average number of new cases assigned to CDC ComCare consultants per month; (c) what was the average number of investigations per consultant conducted by CDC ComCare consultants; (d) what was the average number of CDC ComCare consultants per supervisor; and (e) what was the percentage of CDC ComCare consultants who are professionally trained social workers.
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