

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE  
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER  
WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2024

No. 136

12 noon

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER\*

- \*1. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs with regard to the social media posting that was taken down by the Israeli embassy in Singapore on 24 March 2024 (a) whether there are further steps to be taken; and (b) whether a person responsible for such posting on a social media account that is owned or managed by a foreign embassy in Singapore will enjoy diplomatic immunity from jurisdiction and prosecution under our laws.
- \*2. **Ms Nadia Ahmad Samdin:** To ask the Minister for Health as the Ministry carries out its supervision priority for Cordlife to rectify their shortcomings pending the investigations, whether there are strategies in place to ensure that (i) there will be open and clear communication between Cordlife and the parents affected and (ii) affected parents are well informed on potential ramifications of their decision to transfer their cord blood units to another private cord blood bank backed by scientific evidence, should they opt to do so.
- \*3. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry will assist customers whose cord blood units have been damaged while being stored by Cordlife with receiving a baseline level of compensation regardless of the type of service contract; (b) if so, how will this compensation be determined; and (c) if not, why not.
- \*4. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the precise scope and extent of the Ministry's regulatory action in the Cordlife incident involving damaged cord blood units; (b) how will the Ministry further intervene following international experts' criticism of Cordlife's announced one-year timeline to complete significant testing of its cord blood samples; and (c) how will the Ministry assist unaffected parents who wish to transfer their cord blood units to another service provider for greater peace of mind.
- \*5. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Health whether the Ministry will consider strengthening the obligations of commercial cord blood banking service providers to include the requirement of a full refund of the initial contract fees or other earlier payments when these service providers are found to be responsible for any damage to cord blood units under their care, rendering such units unsuitable for stem cell transplant services.
- \*6. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Health what are the strategies to engage social media platforms and advertising on social media to raise awareness about the harms of vaping and to discourage the use of vapes and habit of vaping among youths in Singapore.
- \*7. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether he will consider delaying the wider rollout of the ERP 2.0 On-Board Unit (OBU) for cars to address users' feedback; (b) if so, how will the Ministry ensure a user-centric approach that incorporates users' concerns while avoiding a complete system reversal; and (c) how will users' experiences be prioritised during the development and implementation of new technologies related to a ERP system.

- \*8. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for Transport with the implementation of ERP 2.0 which involves the relocation of the processing unit carrying CEPAS (Specification for Contactless e-Purse Application) or NETS cards to the front passenger footwells or other technically feasible positions in motor vehicles, whether it can be made mandatory for all carpark operators to upgrade their systems so that it will no longer be necessary for drivers to tap their cards at carpark terminal stations.
- \*9. **Ms Poh Li San:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) how will the withdrawal of VertiVegies, a local vertical farm which would have been one of Singapore's largest indoor vegetable farms boosting local production of greens by 10 per cent, affect Singapore's 30-by-30 food security goals; and (b) what are the other measures by the Singapore Food Agency to accelerate the growth of local vegetable production which accounts for around 4 per cent of total food consumption in 2022.
- \*10. **Miss Cheryl Chan Wei Ling:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the Government will consider plans to support the leveraging or acquiring of requisite intellectual property by local agricultural firms that will support Singapore's 30-by-30 local food production goal; and (b) what support can be provided to companies with agriculture operational knowledge but without full project development capabilities for scale-up farms.
- \*11. **Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether an update can be provided on discussions with Malaysia in respect of the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ); (b) how SMEs can benefit from operating within the JS-SEZ; and (c) how local heartland SMEs can be helped to manage the challenges arising from any potential shift of spending from Singapore to Johor.
- \*12. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information in view of the "digital first but not digital only" approach (a) whether the Ministry regularly audits the service journeys provided by various Ministries and statutory boards to assess their digital inclusion; (b) whether the Ministry has received any feedback in the past five years about improving digital inclusion for specific Government agencies; and (c) if so, whether such feedback has been acted upon.
- \*13. **Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information how can the policy of "not digital only" be better enforced in all Ministries and Government-linked agencies to better support residents who are not digitally able.
- \*14. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) for the past three years, what is the breakdown by sector for the (i) percentage of workforce utilising the Skills Development Fund (SDF) and (ii) average ratio of the SDF utilised to the Skills Development Levy (SDL) collected, for full-time, part-time and casual workers respectively; and (b) how does the Ministry expect the average ratio of the utilisation of the SDF to the SDL for the different sectors and workers to change in view of broad-based technology-intensification.
- \*15. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Education in respect of Skills Development Fund usage, whether the Ministry will consider (i) enhancing course fee subsidy level for individual sponsored learners and (ii) lowering the minimum age for them to qualify for course fee subsidy.
- \*16. **Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what have been key concerns of owners of electric vehicles (EVs) on the use and viability of these vehicles on Singapore roads; (b) what steps does the Ministry intend to take to enhance its public education programme on adopting EVs; and (c) how is Singapore fairing thus far compared to developed economies in the transition into EVs.

- \*17. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for Law for those convicted in Singapore for their involvement in the billion-dollar money laundering case, whether there have been indications from other governments to the Singapore authorities that the offenders will face investigations into the relevant predicate offences upon being deported to their home countries.
- \*18. **Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the senior-friendly fittings under HDB's Enhancement for Active Seniors (EASE) 2.0 programme, which is not applicable to private housing, can be partially or fully extended to eligible elderly retirees living in non-HDB estates.
- \*19. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether the Government will consider requiring all public sector e-services including smartphone apps to pass minimum usability tests for user interface and user experience; and (b) if so, whether these minimum standards can be decided with consultation among the Agency for Integrated Care, the Ministry of Social and Family Development, social workers, civil service organisations and volunteers of senior citizenry including Silver Guardians.
- \*20. **Ms Hany Soh:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what is the progress of the upgrading works to Yishun Innova Junior College; and (b) when does the Ministry expect the upgrading works to be completed so that students and staff may return to the campus at 21 Champions Way.
- \*21. **Ms Hany Soh:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether there are sufficient protective measures against perpetrators who appear to be increasingly adopting deepfake images or videos to commit various offences, including making of threats and extortion.
- \*22. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether NParks can set aside more community space for dog runs or dog parks.
- \*23. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether the Ministry has studied the reasons why some precincts face an insufficient supply of preschools especially when a preschool was planned for the precinct earlier during the HDB BTO construction phase; and (b) how are Government agencies helping parents in such situations.
- \*24. **Miss Cheryl Chan Wei Ling:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what is Singapore's plan in its aim to be a competitive destination for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (MICE); (b) whether a relevant workforce will be available to support her aspiration to become the world's best MICE destination; and (c) whether an expansion of infrastructures is expected in order to achieve the goal.
- \*25. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether an update can be provided on the studies of possible locations for on-road cycling lanes; and (b) whether it will consider trials on similar dedicated on-road cycling lanes for commuters, particularly those living in high-density residential areas.
- \*26. **Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) whether Singapore's National AI Strategy 2.0 includes a requirement for providers of AI technologies to complete a risk assessment prior to making the technology publicly available; (b) if so, who undertakes the assessment; and (c) what risks are assessed.
- \*27. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry will (i) work with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) to develop student and parent-friendly career resources which map MOM's Shortage Occupation List to the relevant education pathways (ii) provide counselling to link skills shortages to suitable courses of study (iii) organise industry outreaches to schools to highlight in-demand jobs and the required qualifications and (iv) ensure that such career information is accessible to less-privileged families.

- \*28. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what are the strategies to ensure high retention rates for doctors in the public healthcare system, particularly those who are locally trained; (b) how does the Ministry ensure adequate staffing levels across essential medical specialties and sub-specialties with consideration for their work-life balance; and (c) with an ageing population, whether there is a need to increase recruitment of specialists from overseas, particularly surgeons, to meet the growing demand for their services.
- \*29. Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether an elaboration can be provided on the Attorney-General's submissions made in a recent case which stated that there was no practical difference between the terms 'apprehend' as deployed in the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act 2008 (MHCTA) and 'arrest' as utilised in other provisions involving the use of police powers; and (b) what specific steps have been or will be taken to safeguard the constitutional right of persons apprehended under the MHCTA.
- \*30. Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry:** To ask the Minister for National Development in view of rising household income levels, whether HDB can increase the eligible monthly household income ceiling for the purchase of a HDB BTO flat.
- \*31. Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what are the factors which caused closures of mid-sized factories in 3Q 2023; (b) whether the Ministry can provide updates on how Singapore's manufacturing sector is recovering relative to other Asian countries such as Korea and Vietnam; and (c) what are the manufacturing sector's challenges and outlook for the year ahead.
- \*32. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether there are plans to phase out the sales of internal combustion engine (ICE) motorcycles similar to Singapore's commitment to phase out sales of ICE cars by 2030; and (b) in light of a local firm shelving its plans to launch a battery swap service for electric vehicles, whether the Government plans to step in and support the initiative for such service.
- \*33. Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) for Junior Colleges (JCs) that take in students progressing from the Integrated Programme (IP), how many and what proportion of places were reserved for GCE "O" Level holders not progressing from the IP in the years of admission 2022, 2023 and 2024 respectively; and (b) whether the Ministry has assessed the impact of reduced JC places on stress levels for GCE "O" Level students seeking to enter JCs.
- \*34. Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) with reference to the Ministry's 2017 survey on retrenchment benefits, how many workers have been paid retrenchment benefits that exceeded prevailing norms; and (b) whether the Ministry plans to continue undertaking and publishing such surveys on retrenchment benefits and, if so, with what frequency.
- \*35. Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether EASE 2.0 subsidies can be extended to HDB flat owners who are children of seniors whose households are eligible for such subsidies but who choose to live with their children on a rotational basis, with the premise that the total subsidies given to the households of the seniors and their children do not exceed the subsidy that will ordinarily be provided to a single eligible household.
- \*36. Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the National Environment Agency (NEA) will consider replacement of the metal roller shutter for all hawker stalls with a lighter aluminium roller shutter to assist older hawkers in hawker centres managed by NEA or NEA-appointed operators.
- \*37. Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether there are measures to address illegal parking around schools during school commencement and ending times.

- \*38. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) what is the Government's assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of existing measures to increase the attractiveness of the Singapore equities market; and (b) whether the Government will take the lead in promoting our equities market by encouraging the privately-owned companies in which it holds equity through its investment vehicles to list in Singapore.
- \*39. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) what are the reasons behind the decision by Commonwealth Games Singapore and Sport Singapore not to make a bid to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games; and (b) whether the Government has considered a joint-bid with a neighbouring country to reduce the hosting resources.
- \*40. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry can consider mandating transparent fee schedules from health insurers for medical procedures to help patients make informed decisions when seeking private care; (b) if so, how will the Ministry ensure that such fee schedules will be in the interest of patients amidst the competing interests of the insurers and doctors; and (c) whether the Ministry can implement a stipulated timeframe to process the claims and payouts for these fee schedules.
- \*41. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether sentences for offences under the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992 have sufficiently deterred individuals from engaging in money laundering; and (b) if not, whether the Government will consider strengthening the sentencing regime.
- \*42. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in view of the public feedback on the proportionality of the sentences meted out to the perpetrators of Singapore's largest anti-money laundering case, what is the Ministry's assessment of the deterrent effect of the anti-money laundering laws.
- \*43. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for National Development since the Temporary Relaxation of Occupancy Cap was introduced (a) what is the total number of 4-room and larger HDB flat rentals approved; and (b) of which, what is (i) the number of rentals which involve more than six unrelated persons and (ii) the average number of unrelated persons per flat.
- \*44. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether he can provide an update on the trend of vacancy rates at business parks since last year; (b) what is the outlook on the occupation rates at business parks this year; and (c) whether developments in this area reflect concerns about specific sectors of the economy.
- \*45. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the latest aerial attacks on Israel and the rising level of conflict in the Middle East (a) whether there are any guidelines or regulations in place for airlines based in Singapore to update the Government of any potential impact or risks posed to their flight routes; and (b) whether there is a review process in place to ensure that safety measures concerning the safety of flight routes that are imposed on these airlines are adhered to on a timely basis.
- \*46. **Mr Alex Yam Ziming:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information with regard to a recent advertisement banner that utilised inappropriate child imagery (a) what are the regulations relating to the use of children's images in advertising, including situations where images may be artificially generated; (b) whether the Ministry is aware if the Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore collaborates with various organisations to ensure consistent enforcement of advertising regulations across all platforms; and (c) whether the Ministry will review the advertising approval processes to prevent future occurrences.

- \*47. **Mr Alex Yam Ziming:** To ask the Minister for Defence following the return of the Singapore Armed Forces team from the airdrop mission in Gaza for humanitarian assistance (a) what is the Ministry's assessment of the cooperation with regional partners such as with Jordan; (b) what is the assessment of the success of the mission; and (c) whether more airdrops or other aid delivery with regional partners are being considered.
- \*48. **Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what strategies are in place to ensure that university graduates are equipped with the critical core skills essential for success in the modern workforce; and (b) how does the Ministry assess and evaluate the integration of future-focused skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptability, into university curricula.
- \*49. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for Transport having regard to the continued increase in motorcycle-related fatalities on expressways since 2022 (a) whether LTA will reconsider the proposal to construct motorcycle lanes on expressways; and (b) what other structural measures is LTA considering to enhance and promote road safety for motorcyclists and pillion riders.
- \*50. **Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs (a) whether Singapore is continuing to express deep concerns about the planned Israeli ground offensive into the city of Rafah in Gaza and the dire humanitarian consequences on civilians; (b) when was the most recent occasion that Singapore engaged the Palestinian Authority, Israel, Egypt or the United States on this matter; and (c) what further assistance is Singapore preparing to deliver to the Palestinians in view of the planned offensive.
- \*51. **Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether Singapore has any plans to train Palestinian officials from Gaza towards aiding in the reconstruction of the enclave once military operations have ceased.
- \*52. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether there has been a continuing increase in the number of serious road traffic accidents after the first half of 2023 including accidents with fatalities; and (b) if so, and in light of recent fatal accidents including the accident in Tampines on 22 April 2024, whether the Traffic Police intends to review and enhance existing measures to reduce the incidence of serious or fatal road traffic accidents, including enhancing existing penalties under the Road Traffic Act 1961.
- \*53. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the sentences currently being imposed for offences relating to reckless or dangerous driving are sufficient deterrents; and (b) if not, whether the existing sentencing guidelines can be recalibrated to deter such offences more effectively.
- \*54. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the share of stalls in HDB coffeeshops that are currently tenanted to (i) food and beverage chains such as Foodfare, Happy Hawkers and (ii) independent operators; and (b) whether HDB has considered including in the price-quality method (PQM) of evaluation of tender bids, an increased weight for the number of residents that live within 2km of a coffeeshop.
- \*55. **Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development what programmes are available to support stay-at-home mothers who are seeking a divorce and who are victims of domestic violence to (i) improve their skills and qualifications (ii) enter the workforce and (iii) gain financial independence.
- \*56. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Ministry will consider regulating the use of glue traps and having measures in place to ensure that cats and wild animals such as birds are not caught in such traps.

- \*57. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the existing electoral rules provide recourse for candidates and political parties who are the subject of manipulated, deepfake media or fake news released during the Cooling Off Day or Polling Day of national elections.
- \*58. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs given the escalation of conflict in the Middle East between Iran and Israel, what are the steps that the Ministry will take to reach out to Singaporeans studying or working in the region, particularly those in neighbouring countries like Jordan and Egypt, to check in on their safety and to ensure their familiarity on evacuation plans out of the region in case of emergency.
- \*59. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Health whether tests for kidney health can be incorporated into Project Silver Screen, the national functional screening programme for seniors.
- \*60. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Education what is the rationale for making unwed parents sign a letter of undertaking for their child's Primary One registration exercise.
- \*61. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for National Development in each year from 2021 to 2023 (a) how many appeals for subsidised rental HDB flats did HDB receive from (i) married couples without children (ii) elderly couples or (iii) singles, who needed a place to rent while waiting for their BTO flats to be constructed; (b) how many of such appeals were granted for each category; and (c) whether HDB can provide more subsidised rental flats for the aforementioned categories of persons awaiting construction of their BTO flats.
- \*62. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what is the share of stalls in NEA-operated hawker centres that are currently tenanted to (i) food and beverage chains such as Koufu, Kopitiam and Timbre+ and (ii) independent operators; and (b) whether the Ministry has considered including in the price-quality method (PQM) for evaluation of tender bids, an increased weight for the number of residents that live within 2km of a hawker centre.
- \*63. **Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether an update can be provided on the prospects of a possible revival of the High-Speed Rail (HSR) project between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, in view that the Malaysian government has recently shortlisted three consortia to build the HSR.
- \*64. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the rationale for retroactive charging for upgrades to higher-class wards, especially when patients do not consume services and amenities of the higher-class wards before their upgrades; (b) whether retroactive charging applies to cases where patients downgrade to lower ward types; and (c) if not, why not.
- \*65. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what are the safeguards to ensure that artificial intelligence (AI) systems used by employers do not result in unfair or discriminatory hiring practices; and (b) what measures can be taken to ensure accountability for hiring practices and human resource decisions which are influenced by AI, including the outsourcing of human resource analytics to contractors that use AI.
- \*66. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) in the past five years, how many complaints did HDB receive about defects found in HDB resale flats after the completion of the sale and purchase transaction where the defects were not previously brought to the attention of the prospective buyer; (b) whether sellers of HDB flats are obliged to disclose serious defects to prospective buyers; and (c) what recourse is available to buyers who were previously not informed of such defects before the completion of the transaction.

- \*67. **Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development whether it will consider providing additional financial assistance similar to bursaries, for preschool children from low-income families.
- \*68. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the National Environment Agency will consider assisting the public waste collectors to equip their waste collection trucks with surveillance cameras to collect evidence for enforcement actions against illegal parking at the restricted area in front of HDB flats' central refuse chutes which hamper the daily waste collection operations.
- \*69. **Ms Carrie Tan:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry whether the Ministry will consider mandating that companies registering as renovation or interior design companies have at least one director with sectoral qualifications or minimum years of relevant experience within the industry.
- \*70. **Ms Carrie Tan:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry since changes to the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act took effect in end-2016 (a) what is the annual breakdown of prepayment losses arising from (i) uncompleted home renovation projects and (ii) disputes involving renovation and interior design companies that have been reported to the Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE); (b) of these cases, how many were (i) monies successfully recovered from errant traders and (ii) raised to SPRING Singapore for further investigations; and (c) how many companies has had enforcement action taken against them.
- \*71. **Ms Carrie Tan:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) with regard to the renovation disputes that are reported to the Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE), what is the breakdown in proportion of (i) fraud cases and (ii) contractual disagreements; (b) how many are raised by renovation firms against customers; and (c) how is SPRING Singapore equipped to have the necessary technical expertise on renovation matters to effectively investigate and ensure fair assessment on dispute cases that are raised by CASE for further investigations under the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act.
- \*72. **Ms Hany Soh:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to HDB's Woodgrove Edge BTO project (a) whether LTA has conducted its own traffic impact assessment (TIA), independent of the appointed developer's assessment; (b) whether LTA's TIA, if conducted, included engagement with residents who live in the vicinity; and (c) if the TIA has not already been conducted by LTA, whether it intends to do so and gather the residents' feedback and concerns.
- \*73. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether Jurong Town Corporation (JTC) is empowered to lease of JTC industrial properties to local SMEs at a discount to the market rate; (b) if so, how many of such schemes are there and which industries are these schemes tailored for respectively; and (c) whether the Ministry has any plans to expand the number of such schemes that reduce business costs for local SMEs by way of lower rentals.
- \*74. **Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) how many traffic junctions in Singapore currently allow motorists to make discretionary right turns; (b) in the last five years, what is the number of reported accidents involving discretionary right turns; and (c) of which, how many such accidents have resulted in serious injuries.
- \*75. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether an update can be provided on the effectiveness of the Pet Shop Grading Scheme in terms of raising the standards of animal welfare and professionalism in the pet retail industry.
- \*76. **Mr Alex Yam Ziming:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what plans does LTA have to further enhance road safety awareness amongst drivers and road users; and (b) whether road design and traffic mitigation measures are currently sufficient in high traffic areas.



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\* 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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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

1. **Minister for Home Affairs:**

Singapore's National Drug Control Policy.

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### ORDER OF THE DAY

1. Transport Sector (Critical Firms) Bill [Bill No. 16/2024] – (Minister for Transport) – Second Reading.  
[For amendments on the Bill, see Supplement No. 21 dated 8 May 2024.]
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### QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Prime Minister since the collapse of Terraform Labs, a Singapore-registered startup behind the Terra stablecoin (a) how have regulations been strengthened for cryptocurrency investment firms operating in Singapore; (b) how will such companies be prevented from operating before obtaining a license from MAS; (c) how has Terraform Labs' collapse impacted Singapore's reputation; (d) what measures are being considered to prevent similar occurrences; and (e) whether the Government has conducted a review to identify and address any vulnerabilities arising from this case.
2. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) in 2023, what is the number of gifts declared by civil servants and political officeholders respectively to their Permanent Secretaries that is valued (i) above \$50 and (ii) below \$50; (b) what is the mean and maximum value of these gifts; (c) how many officers have chosen to retain the gifts; (d) what is the number of meal invitations declared to their Permanent Secretaries; and (e) how many meal invitation requests have been denied.
3. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Defence since 2000 (a) what is the proportion of full-time National Servicemen who are assigned to (i) clerk (ii) storeman and (iii) other non-combat vocations; (b) whether these proportions have increased over the years; and (c) if so, whether these proportions are expected to further increase with the growing prevalence of mental and other health issues in the population.
4. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Defence for each year since 2014 (a) how many second-generation permanent residents (PRs) renounced their PR status before serving National Service (NS); and (b) how many new citizens or PRs renounced their Singapore citizenship or declined offers for Singapore citizenship after having completed their full-time NS obligations.
5. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs how is Singapore continuing ties with Israel and the US amidst the escalating tensions in the Middle East.
6. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs (a) how the escalation of tension in the Middle East will impact geopolitics in the Southeast Asia region; and (b) how is the Ministry preparing for it.

7. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether the Ministry can provide an update on the measures currently in place to ensure the safety of Singaporeans residing in or travelling to the Middle East, particularly students, in light of recent military actions reported between Israel and Iran.
8. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the escalating tensions in the Middle East affects Singapore's social compact; and (b) how is the Ministry continuing to protect and strengthen that compact.
9. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Law (a) whether the Small Claims Tribunals (SCT) has heard a common group of claims as per section 26 of the Small Claims Tribunals Act in the past five years; and (b) if so, whether there has been any group of claims that have been rejected as the total value of the claim exceeded the SCT's prescribed limit of \$20,000.
10. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Law in each year of the past five years (a) what proportion of rent collected from residential properties managed by the Singapore Land Authority was spent on maintenance and safety inspections; (b) what safety incidents were there; and (c) how regularly are safety inspections conducted.
11. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry whether the Singapore Tourism Board is currently engaging stakeholders in finding sites for trishaw tour operators to resume operations and, if so, when will new licences to operate such tours be available again.
12. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether Singapore's tight labour market condition, higher cost structure and strong Singapore dollar will pose severe challenges to efforts to be the world's best destination for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (MICE); (b) how can these challenges be overcome; and (c) how can Singapore's capacity be further geared up to host more world-class MICE events without compromising on standards and quality.
13. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what is the level of Singapore's investments and trade that involved and utilised the Trans-Caspian International Trade Route (TITR) since 2022; and (b) whether there will be an expansion of investments for Singapore to better connect with the TITR.
14. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what measures are in place to curb smoking at covered walkways and linkways; (b) how effective have these measures been in (i) addressing and (ii) deterring individuals from re-offending at these places; (c) whether there are plans to enhance or expand these effective measures in tandem with the Government's plan to build more covered walkways and linkways islandwide; and (d) if so, what are they.
15. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the new Emission Factors Registry, which is meant to help businesses meet their climate reporting needs, has encouraged more firms to voluntarily register and commit to transitioning to low-carbon output.
16. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Singapore Food Agency will consider setting safety standards for common per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Singapore's drinking water, in light of the United States' announcement on 10 April 2024 about the setting of safety standards for five individual PFAS in their drinking water.
17. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment since the launch of the Hawkers Succession Scheme (a) what is the number of veteran hawkers who have been onboarded to the programme; and (b) what is the number of potential successors who have (i) completed the apprenticeship (ii) completed the food tasting evaluation and (iii) successfully taken over the stall.

18. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether NEA will waive a hawker stall's refuse removal fees whenever a hawker centre is closed for renovations.
19. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Education in relation to the recent incident of unauthorised access into a device management service provider's user management portal (a) what are the steps to be taken after investigations to ensure that such incidents do not recur again; and (b) whether the Ministry is able to take any steps on its own or together with governmental agencies such as Cyber Security Agency, to increase the security of the Ministry's own device management application.
20. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how many parents and staff respectively have had their data leaked in the data security breach incident concerning unauthorised access into the user management portal of Mobile Guardian; and (b) what are the steps being taken to raise the security level on such portals.
21. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Education following the data breach incident involving Mobile Guardian's app (a) whether the Ministry will consider transitioning to a local company with data centers and operations located in Singapore for greater control over user information; (b) whether the Ministry has determined if the data breach has been caused by a malicious cyberattack or by an access from unauthorised person(s); and (c) how will Mobile Guardian be made accountable.
22. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how many art and music teachers at the (i) primary (ii) secondary and (iii) post-secondary levels teach more than one subject each; (b) whether the Ministry has considered if it is feasible for these teachers to focus only or mainly on the teaching of the arts subjects that they specialise in; and (c) if so, whether the Ministry is able to provide an update on these considerations.
23. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how many art and music teachers are presently employed by the Ministry at the (i) primary (ii) secondary and (iii) post-secondary levels; and (b) for each year in the past five years, how many art and music teachers at the (i) primary (ii) secondary and (iii) post-secondary levels have resigned from their positions.
24. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry has considered including drama or theatre studies as part of the arts education component of its core primary school syllabus; and (b) if so, what have been the outcomes of such considerations.
25. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Education in each year from 2018 to 2023 (a) how many places were available for (i) NITEC in Nursing (ii) Higher NITEC in Nursing and (iii) Diploma in Nursing programmes respectively at all educational institutions; (b) how many students applied for these courses; (c) how many were accepted; and (d) how many students met the minimum entry requirements but were denied admission because the courses were oversubscribed.
26. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development what is the reason for prohibiting the adoption of adult children by an older couple, especially in the case of stepchildren from an earlier marriage.
27. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what measures are put in place to ensure that medical institutions offering elective egg-freezing store the eggs in an optimal temperature; and (b) how often does the Ministry audit these institutions.
28. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health in each year for the past five years, how many mothers aged 19 and younger had their pregnancies confirmed at (i) polyclinics (ii) public hospitals and (iii) private hospitals respectively.

29. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry has studied how many young cancer patients underwent curative intent therapy with potential side effects on fertility over the past three years; and (b) of these patients, how many (i) underwent fertility preservation therapy and (ii) did not undergo fertility preservation due to financial concerns.
30. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry has evaluated the available healthcare insurance policies in the market, including employer-provided insurance and Integrated Shield Plans, for the extent of coverage of fertility preservation therapy for cancer patients undergoing medically necessary treatment where the side effects may affect fertility; and (b) if so, what have been the findings.
31. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Health how will the Ministry enhance its enforcement capabilities in tackling the illegal importation, distribution, and promotion of vaping products in Singapore, considering the sophisticated strategies employed by vaping product manufacturers that leverage on social media influencers and third-party hirers to circumvent local laws.
32. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Health what collaborative efforts are being made with the Infocomm Media Development Authority, social media platforms, and other stakeholders to enhance the policing of online content related to vaping in order to protect public health and ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Online Safety.
33. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Health in light of recent news that a major manufacturer of vaping products has been using social media influencers around the world, including strategies driven from Singapore, to target young people, what measures are being implemented to monitor and regulate the promotion of vaping products on social media platforms by influencers.
34. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether HDB can expedite the conversion of existing interlocking paving blocks to concrete pavements for high traffic areas such as refuse collection points, drop-off porches, loading and unloading bays, and car park entrances, especially for areas in Keat Hong estate where there are damaged interlocking paving blocks which pose serious traffic hazard and personal safety risks.
35. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) since 2010 in the west region, what is the annual number of public and private heavy vehicle parking lots registered under the Vehicle Parking Certificate scheme and the length of the waiting list for publicly-operated lots; (b) whether there are any plans to reduce the number of publicly-operated lots in the next five years; and (c) whether any new publicly-operated lots will be provided in or near newly constructed residential areas such as Tengah New Town.
36. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether HDB has considered partnering with HDB flat lessees who are moving overseas to work or are facing financial difficulties, to rent out their HDB flats before the end of their Minimum Occupation Period on the condition that they agree to provide tenants with the subsidised rental rates set by HDB so as to increase the supply of subsidised rental flats.
37. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Ministry will review the Town Councils Act 1988 and Town Councils (Disbursement of Moneys from Sinking Funds) Financial Rules 2020 so as to include cyclical works relating to escalators as expenses payable from the Lift Replacement Fund instead of the Sinking Fund.
38. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information how does the Cyber Security Agency intend to increase the public uptake in installing anti-virus apps on their personal devices to decrease the chances of such devices being infected by malware.

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39. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) whether the Ministry actively solicits specific merchants' participation in the CDC hawkers programme in the 2024 CDC Voucher Scheme; and (b) given that NTUC Fairprice is participating in the merchants' programme, why are NTUC hawker groups, such as Foodfare or Kopitiam, not included in the Scheme.
40. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether an update can be provided on the investigations into the deaths of two construction workers at the LTA worksites for the Tengah integrated rail and bus depot and for the North-South Corridor at Cavenagh Road.
41. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Manpower considering the challenges small and medium enterprises (SMEs) may face in implementing flexible work arrangements, what specific support is the Government providing to help these businesses adapt without compromising operational efficiency.
42. **Mr Sharael Taha:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether a study has been conducted to understand the impact of flexible work arrangements on offshoring remote work from Singapore; and (b) what measures can the Ministry implement to promote a remote working ecosystem which balances productivity, cost, and provides local employment opportunities for workers in Singapore.
43. **Mr Sharael Taha:** To ask the Minister for Manpower as flexible work arrangements are normalised, how can it be ensured that our local workforce, in particular the professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs), remain or are enhanced in skills and productivity competitiveness as companies may look towards offshoring their workforce needs to take advantage of cost differentials through remote working.
44. **Mr Sharael Taha:** To ask the Minister for Manpower with the normalising of flexible work arrangements, how can we better promote (i) flexible-load and job sharing so as to provide employment opportunities for re-employed workers who wish to work reduced hours and (ii) telecommuting and remote working to provide employment opportunities for workers with mobility challenges.
45. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the time period when employers are liable and required to submit and update the Ministry on the status of work injury claims under the Work Injury Compensation Act 2019; and (b) what recourse is available to employees (i) if their employers fail to submit such claims or (ii) whose claims take a prolonged period of time to be submitted and updated by employers.
46. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the current total number of roundabouts located in Silver Zones; and (b) what is the number of accidents reported at roundabouts located in Silver Zones for each of the last three years.
47. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether there are any technical restrictions on the placement of zebra crossing markings within (i) public housing estates (ii) private residential estates and (iii) commercial projects; (b) if so, what are they; and (c) if not, what are the requirements before such markings can be placed at such residential and commercial areas.
48. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Transport as part of the study on a separate Certificate of Entitlement (COE) category for private-hire cars, whether the Ministry will consider splitting the new private-hire vehicle COE category into electric vehicles (EVs) and non-electric vehicles, with higher allocation for EVs in order to accelerate electrification among high-mileage vehicles.
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