FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

Second Session

ORDER PAPER

TUESDAY, 15TH MAY, 1979

No. 20 **2.30 p.m.** 40

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

*1. **Mr Ang Nam Piau:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the Government will consider introducing legislation to provide for anti-noise measures.

*2. **Mr Tan Cheng San:** To ask the Prime Minister whether he will consider extending the age limit of stevedores to 65 years for the issue of Port of Singapore Authority passes.

*3. **Mr Ho Kah Leong:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the Government will increase the subsidy for the building of new community centres in view of inflation.

*4. **Mr Yeo Choo Kok:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the air pollution in industrial estates, such as the Jurong Town, and urban areas has reached the state of affecting the health of the residents of those areas and what steps have been or will be taken to reduce air pollution generally.

*5. **Mr Tan Cheng San:** To ask the Minister for Labour whether he is aware that some stevedores working at the wharves do not hold work permits, and what action will be taken against them.

*6. **Mr Ng Kah Ting:** To ask the Minister for the Environment (*a*) how long the incinerator at Toh Tuck Road has been in operation; (*b*) how much refuse it is burning per day; (*c*) how much electricity it is generating; (*d*) whether there is any excess of electricity generated and how it is utilised; (*e*) how much refuse is still being dumped at the Tampines disposal ground; and (*f*) whether and when the Tampines disposal ground will be closed.

*7. **Encik Mansor Haji Sukaimi:** To ask the Minister for the Environment (*a*) whether his Ministry had anticipated the recent floodings at Jalan Eunos in the vicinity of the Pan-Island Expressway fly-over, and, if so, why the flood control measures were not effective; (*b*) what steps are being taken to remedy the flooding problem; how effective those measures will be; and, if they are not effective, whether he will recommend that the families affected by the floodings be resettled immediately; and (*c*) whether draining flood water into the Siglap Canal will cause overloading of the Canal thereby aggravating the floodings in Pachitan, Changi Road and Frankel

Estate; and, if so, whether his Ministry will revise its plans by diverting flood waters elsewhere or into new drainage networks instead of into the Siglap Canal.

*8. **Mr Eugene Yap Giau Cheng:** To ask the Minister for the Environment (*a*) who are the largest single group of energy users in Singapore; (*b*) is this group responding well to the "Save Electricity Campaign" recently launched by the Public Utilities Board; and (*c*) are there any other deterrent measures that the Board intends to adopt to discourage this group from further wastage of electricity.

*9. **Mr Ho See Beng:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether the drug position has improved or deteriorated, and if he is able to give the House breakdown figures of persons convicted in court for drug taking as well as of persons convicted for drug trafficking for the years 1977, 1978 and 1979.

*10. **Mr Yeo Choo Kok:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether his Ministry has any plans to prohibit the sounding of horns by school bus drivers when picking up students in the early morning hours, especially in housing estates, so that noise pollution level can be reduced to enable residents to have a peaceful and quiet morning.

*11. **Mr Ho Kah Leong:** To ask the Minister for the Environment whether the Public Utilities Board will consider installation of one water meter to each hawker at food centres if the hawkers are prepared to bear the cost of installation.

*12. **Dr Koh Lip Lin:** To ask the Minister for the Environment whether and when a new reservoir will be built in Nee Soon.

*13. **Dr Lau Teik Soon:** To ask the Minister for the Environment what measures have been taken to alleviate the suffering of the residents in the flood prone areas at the kampong along Lorong Kinchir, off Lorong Chuan.

*14. **Mr Yeo Choo Kok:** To ask the Minister for the Environment (*a*) whether the Public Utilities Board has any plans to systematically check the condition of water meters to detect malfunction and the unnoticed water leakage; (*b*) how many water meters have been found faulty in the past five years; and (*c*) how many faulty meters have been replaced with new ones during this period.

*15. **Mr Ang Nam Piau:** To ask the Minister for Finance whether he is aware of the difficulty of the majority of wage-earners to pay their income tax due to the rising cost of living and if he will consider raising the present rate of income tax relief.

*16. **Mr Rohan bin Kamis:** To ask the Minister for Finance what are the plans to enlarge our tax-base to include those people who are self-employed and should be paying taxes.

*17. **Mr Ng Kah Ting:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Acting Minister for Culture what is the latest position of the proposed Mass Rapid Transit System; and whether a firm decision has been taken on its implementation and, if not, why not.

*18. **Mr Tan Cheng San:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Acting Minister for Culture, because of the difficulties encountered by bus drivers when moving out from bus bays, if he will consider introducing a scheme whereby other vehicles have to give way to buses moving out from bus bays.

*19. **Haji Sha'ari bin Tadin:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Acting Minister for Culture if he will request the Singapore Bus Service Ltd (i) to consider re-routing SBS feeder service No. 222 from the Bedok Interchange to cover Bedok South Avenue 1, as there are no feeder services to the Bedok Interchange from Bedok South; (ii) to provide a special service from the Bedok Interchange to East Coast Road via Bedok Avenue 1 so as to make up for services No. 152 and No. 3 which were removed from Bedok South Road on 11th March, 1979, under Stage III of the New Bus Plan for Bedok; and (iii) to increase the number of buses for service No. 12.

*20. **Mr Rohan bin Kamis:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Acting Minister for Culture what are the plans to improve the bus services in Telok Blangah Constituency and when these plans will be operational.

*21. **Mr Ang Nam Piau:** To ask the Minister for National Development if the Housing and Urban Development Company will follow the footsteps of the Housing and Development Board in installing automatic rescue devices in the lifts of its flats.

*22. **Mr Ng Kah Ting:** To ask the Minister for National Development, in view of the fact that clearance of land at Punggol acquired for pig-farming development has been completed, whether any progress has been made in the implementation of phase 3 of the project.

*23. **Encik Mansor Haji Sukaimi:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the inquiry into the collapse of the fly-over at Jalan Eunos has been completed; and if he will give the reasons for the collapse and state what steps will be taken to ensure that there will be no further collapse of that fly-over and other fly-overs.

*24. **Mr Ho See Beng:** To ask the Minister for National Development if he will state the reasons why the Building Control Division would not approve the change of use of the first floor of postwar buildings into offices for some clans and associations, and whether he is aware that this rigid attitude is jeopardising the development of the cultural activities of those civic organisations which the Ministry of Culture is at the moment vigorously promoting.

*25. **Mr Eugene Yap Giau Cheng:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry, in view of Singapore's industrialisation drive for the 1980s, whether a blueprint for action to stimulate technological development in Singapore has been drawn up, and if he will provide an outline of the blueprint and state when it will be implemented.

*26. **Mr Ngeow Pack Hua:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry whether he is aware that ventilation in Boon Lay Garden Shopping Centre is very poor and what steps he proposes to take to remedy the situation.

*27. **Mr Rohan bin Kamis:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry what are the plans to enlarge the facilities of Sentosa Island to make it more attractive to both Singaporeans and the tourists.

*28. **Mr Ho See Beng:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Raffles Centre development project will lead to acquisition of schools along Bras Basah Road as well as the playground of St Joseph's Institution, the grounds of St Andrew's Cathedral and the Padang in front of City Hall.

*29. **Haji Sha'ari bin Tadin:** To ask the Minister for National Development if he will request the Public Works Department to construct bus shelters in front of Apartment Block 40, Bedok South Road and Apartment Block 65, New Upper Changi Road.

*30. **Haji Sha'ari bin Tadin:** To ask the Minister for National Development if he will consider installing traffic lights at the junction of New Upper Changi Road and Bedok South Avenue 1.

*31. **Mr Eugene Yap Giau Cheng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (*a*) when he proposes to bring the Sale of Commercial Properties Act, 1979, into operation and to introduce the regulations governing the terms and conditions for the sale of commercial properties; (*b*) whether he is aware that the Consumers' Association of Singapore (CASE) has been and is still receiving complaints from several purchasers of commercial properties ranging from several years of delay in issuing strata titles to levying fees on transfer from one owner to another and, whilst framing a set of restrictive regulations to stamp out blatant profiteering on the part of some commercial property developers, if he will consider making the regulations retrospective; (*c*) if he does not wish to consider making the regulations retrospective, if he can oblige the House with the rationale behind that thinking; and (*d*) if the regulations cannot be retrospective, if he will consider measures to rectify the present inequitable situation for those who are already affected and who have been unfortunately excluded from the Act.

*32. **Haji Rahmat bin Kenap:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether farmers affected by redevelopment can be offered hawker stalls in lieu of compensation for loss of their farms if they are willing to accept them and whether such cases will be given priority.

*33. **Haji Rahmat bin Kenap:** To ask the Minister for Social Affairs whether there is sufficient manpower for the ambulances as, when an ambulance attends a call from a flat resident, usually only one attendant goes up to the flat and the sick person is carried down on a canvas sheet instead of on a proper stretcher.

*34. **Dr Lau Teik Soon:** To ask the Minister for Social Affairs when construction of the Sports Centre at Burghley Drive will commence, when it will be completed and what will be the facilities in the Sports Centre.

*35. **Haji Rahmat bin Kenap:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Housing and Development Board will consider the early resettlement of those illiterate residents, who have been living for many years in a house now affected by redevelopment but whose addresses on

their identity cards remain unchanged or have been changed recently although the street name had long ago been changed, as there has been a long delay in dealing with such cases.

*36. **Mr Ho Kah Leong:** To ask the Minister for National Development if the Public Works Department will erect proper signs to warn motorists of pedestrian zebra crossings ahead.

*37. **Dr Koh Lip Lin:** To ask the Minister for National Development (*a*) if the development plan for Nee Soon New Town has been completed; (*b*) what is the number of projected housing units in Nee Soon New Town and when these units will be completed; and (*c*) how many units of flats will be built in Nee Soon New Town in the next three years.

*38. **Dr Lau Teik Soon:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether he will consider installing a traffic light system at the junction of Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1 and Avenue 8.

*39. **Encik Sidek bin Saniff:** To ask the Minister for National Development if he will consider allowing the conversion of three instead of two units of void deck space for use as community halls.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Introduction of Government Bills

1. **Minister for Health:**
   Pharmacists Registration Bill.

2. **Minister for Law and Science and Technology:**
   Evidence (Civil Proceedings in Other Jurisdictions) Bill.

3. **Minister for Law and Science and Technology:**
   State Immunity Bill.

4. **Minister for Home Affairs:**
   Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill.

5. **Minister for Finance:**
   Money-changing and Remittance Businesses Bill.

6. **Minister for Social Affairs:**
   Women's Charter (Amendment) Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

(Those marked ● are Orders of the Day.)

● 1. Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill — (Minister for Health) — Second Reading.

2. **Minister for Law and Science and Technology:**

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS RULES: That this Parliament, pursuant to subsection (2) of section 29 of the Registration of Deeds Act (Chapter 281),

resolves that the Registration of Deeds Rules, 1979, published as Notification Nos. S 31 and S 49 in the *Gazette* Subsidiary Legislation Supplement Nos. 7 and 8 of 16th and 23rd February, 1979, as contained in Paper S.L. 7 of 1979, be approved.

3. Minister for Law and Science and Technology:

SENTOSA (RECLAMATION): That this Parliament, in accordance with section 4 of the Foreshores Act (Chapter 270), approves the reclamation by Government of those portions of the foreshore and sea-bed at Sentosa containing a total area of about 30 hectares as shown coloured yellow on the plan marked "RECLAMATION PLAN No. 1/79" which is deposited in the Land Office, Singapore.

PAPERS PRESENTED

1979			*Date Presented*
S.	3	Annual Report of the Free Trade Zone Advisory Committee, 1977 ...	5th April, 1979.
S.L.	9	Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1979	12th April, 1979.
Misc.	4	Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets of the Trustees of the Silver Jubilee Fund (Singapore) for the year ended 31st December, 1978	18th April, 1979.
S.	4	Annual Report and Accounts of the Port of Singapore Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1978 ...	19th April, 1979.
Pres. Co.	4	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 5/79] ...	23rd April, 1979.
Pres. Co.	5	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 6/79 (Amended)]	23rd April, 1979.
Pres. Co.	6	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Rubber Industry (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 11/79]	23rd April, 1979.
Pres. Co.	7	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Rubber Association of Singapore (Incorporation) (Amendment No. 2) Bill [Bill No. 12/79 (Amended)]	23rd April, 1979.
Pres. Co.	8	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Public Entertainments (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 13/79]	23rd April, 1979.

PAPERS PRESENTED — *continued.*

1979			*Date Presented*
Pres. Co.	9	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Cinematograph Films (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 15/79]	23rd April, 1979.
Pres. Co.	10	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Sale of Commercial Properties Bill [Bill No. 16/79 (Amended)]	23rd April, 1979.
S.L.	10	Customs Duties (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1979	23rd April, 1979.
S.L.	11	Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles Driving Licences) (Amendment) Rules, 1979	24th April, 1979.
S.L.	12	Motor Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Rules, 1979	24th April, 1979.
S.	5	Report of the Preservation of Monuments Board for the period 1975 to August 1978	27th April, 1979.
Parl.	2	Second Report of the Committee of Selection (Second Session) ...	28th April, 1979.
S.L.	13	Land Titles Rules, 1979	7th May, 1979.