ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

SECOND SESSION

ORDER PAPER

WEDNESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

No. 32 1.30 p.m. 204

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

*1. **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports (a) what is the final amount spent for the inaugural Youth Olympics Games(YOG); (b) why is the actual amount spent much more than initially budgeted; (c) what are the factors that contributed to this increase; (d) how does this compare with other Games conducted on a similar scale; (e) how does the Ministry rate its performance on the organisation of the YOG; and (f) what returns can Singapore expect from the amount spent on the programs, talent, infrastructure and volunteers for YOG.

*2. **Ms Irene Ng Phek Hoong:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports if he will provide his assessment of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) and its legacy to Singapore, in particular how much was spent on the YOG and what are the short-term and long-term benefits of this public investment to Singapore and Singaporeans.

*3. **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports (a) what are the Ministry's plans to further develop Singapore's sports industry following the successful organisation of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games; (b) what are the new infrastructure and programmes that the Ministry has planned to build a sporting culture involving as many Singaporeans as possible; and (c) what measures are in place to better optimise the sporting facilities in schools and other organisations for public use.

*4. **Ms Irene Ng Phek Hoong:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports what efforts will be made to develop our young athletes further to the highest levels and to nurture a sporting culture in our schools and in the wider community.

*5. **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports (a) what are the plans to further develop the talents who have shown potential at the Youth Olympic Games and to ensure that these talents continue to develop and perform as they progress to national teams; and (b) how does the Ministry plan to manage the sporting careers of young male athletes during their period of National Service and to ensure that they are still able to compete at the highest level internationally and not lose time or motivation.

*6. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports (a) why is the final budget for the Youth Olympic Games more than triple the original estimate; (b) where were the additional funds drawn from; (c) whether any of his Ministry programmes were cut back for this purpose; and (d) what was the amount paid for the tickets purchased by the Ministry of Education and whether this was also part of the YOG budget.

*7. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) if he will explain the basis on which the new anti-speculation measures announced on 30 August 2010 were devised; and (b) whether any assessment was done on their impact on genuine home buyers and Singaporean investors.

*8. **Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether there will be enough Executive Condominiums and flats under the Design, Build and Sell Scheme (DBSS) to cater to the needs of those with a monthly income of $8,000 to $10,000; (b) whether there will be an increase in the prices of DBSS flats; and (c) how will the Ministry ensure that there will be enough DBSS flats and their prices are within the means of all those who are eligible.

*9. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister of Community Development, Youth and Sports whether the convenient daily free shuttle bus services running at hourly basis from various HDB towns to Resorts World Sentosa have attracted more Singaporeans to gamble at the casino at a higher frequency and whether it has resulted in an increase in problem gambling cases in the neighbourhoods.

*10. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what is the rationale for abolishing the Primary One year-end examinations; (b) how will the Ministry address parents' concerns that their children may not be adequately prepared for major primary school examinations including the PSLE; (c) whether such parental concerns will result in greater pressure on the children as parents put them through additional afterschool programmes; and (d) what training and additional resources will be provided to teachers to help them handle the changes effectively.

*11. **Er Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for Education in the recent Primary One Registration Exercise (a) how many schools have to conduct balloting in Phase 2C of the admission exercise; (b) how many children gained admission to the school of their choice through (i) the parent's volunteer scheme; and (ii) their parent's donation to the school; and (c) whether the Ministry has any plan to finetune the current system such as giving priority to those who live within 500 metres of the school.

*12. **Assoc Prof Paulin Tay Straughan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) how many applications were received for permanent residency in 2009 and 2010 and what is the proportion that was successful for each year; (b) what is the profile of those who were successful in their applications; (c) whether the fall in proportion of permanent residents (PR) is due to more stringent immigration policies; and (d) what are the implications of this restriction on PRs on the old-age support ratio for Singapore in the long term.

*13. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Prime Minister in light of the 2010 Census which shows that the Malay share of the resident population has slipped from 14.8% in 1970 to 13.4% this year (a) what can be done to prevent the present population mix which has contributed to racial and religious harmony from further declining; and (b) what measures have been taken to attract Malay foreign talent into Singapore.

*14. **Assoc Prof Paulin Tay Straughan:** To ask the Prime Minister what is the primary function of the Population and Talent Division and how will it complement the roles of the National Population Committee and the National Integration Council.

*15. **Mr Teo Siong Seng:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) when will the Population and Talent Division be setup; and (b) what kind of programmes will be put in place to manage the impact of Singapore's immigration policy.

*16. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether he will consider a requirement for employers of foreign workers to show proof of accommodation that will be provided for their workers before they are issued with work permits to ensure appropriate housing for the workers; (b) what is the number of workers who have been found to be housed in inappropriate accommodation in the last 3 years; and (c) whether heavier sentences, such as longer jail terms, can be imposed on errant employers to deter repeat offenders.

*17. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in view of the recent award of approximately $1 million by the High Court to a worker who was paralysed from a workplace accident and that the Commissioner of Labour awarded him only $182,000, whether the Ministry will consider raising the maximum compensation amounts in the Work Injury Compensation Act so that the maximum amount in the Act is in tandem with what the courts award.

*18. **Mr Terry Lee:** To ask the Minister for Health in the last 3 years (a) what is the amount of the Medifund paid out; (b) how many Singaporeans benefited from the fund; (c) apart from being poor, what are the profiles of Singaporeans who apply for this fund; and (d) what are the types of treatment that Medifund is used for.

*19. **Assoc Prof Paulin Tay Straughan:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the health profile of Singaporeans aged 85 years and older; (b) what is the proportion of these Singaporeans in institutional care facilities; and (c) what constraints does the Ministry face in providing for the health care needs of this segment of the population.

*20. **Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Acting Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts what measures are there to ensure organisations in the private, public and people sectors do not divulge personal particulars of individuals without their permission, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

*21. **Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Acting Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts (a) what other measures are being taken to honour Singapore's founding fathers and leaders who are still with us; and (b) how can future generations of Singaporeans be reminded of their contributions and sacrifices.

*22. **Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Minister for Finance (a) whether the number of GST cheats has been increasing over the years; and (b) how much has the Government lost and how much has been recovered from these cheats over the past 5 years.

*23. **Mr Teo Siong Seng:** To ask the Senior Minister (a) if he will provide details of the S$30 billion currency-swap agreement between the People's Bank of China and the Monetary Authority of Singapore; and (b) what impact will this have on Singapore's trade and investment linkages with China.

*24. **Mdm Cynthia Phua:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what is the current process to test the toxicity of toys by importers; (b) whether the Ministry will look into a nation-wide review of all toys in the market before the year-end season; (c) what are the regulatory safeguards to protect children against toxic chemicals in toys; and (d) whether the Ministry has plans to tighten regulations on the importation of toys before they are put on the market.

*25. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) for an update on (i) the cause of the oil spill off the East Coast of Singapore and (ii) the extent of damage it has caused to Singapore's marine and coastal life; and (b) what measures have been and will continue to be taken to mitigate the damage.

*26. **Er Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports (a) what were the criteria used in the selection of the 16 community clubs to screen the recent World Cup matches; (b) whether the Ministry will consider extending the screening of high-profile sporting events to all community clubs in future; and (c) how can a repeat of the issues in securing World Cup broadcasting rights be prevented in the future.

*27. **Mdm Cynthia Phua:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports so as to protect children whose parents are divorcing (a) whether the Ministry will review the present arrangement and require that the matrimonial flat/house be sold and sale proceeds be shared by both parents; and (b) whether the Ministry will differentiate between ownership and occupation of the property by allowing the parent who has custody of the child to (i) stay in the flat/house until the child is working; or (ii) pay rental for the flat/house to the former spouse until alternative housing is available.

*28. **Mdm Cynthia Phua:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports (a) how many children were affected by divorce/separation of their parents in each of the last 5 years and how many of these children went through counselling; (b) whether the Ministry will make it compulsory for parents to send their children for counselling before their separation and divorce are completed; and (c) whether the Ministry will conduct a survey on the impact of divorce on children, including the emotional impact, to better address the needs of these children.

*29. **Mr Viswa Sadasivan:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how does the Government address the issue of HDB flat owners, especially ethnic minority owners, who have difficulty selling their flats because of the restrictions under the Ethnic Integration Policy; (b) how many such owners have had to sell their flats below market valuation; and (c) whether in such cases, the Government will consider buying back the flat from the owners at market valuation or offer a cash top up equal to the deficit, to demonstrate that such owners will not be unduly penalised because of restrictions resulting from a government policy.

*30. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether he will consider reviving the Transitional Rental Housing Scheme which allowed newly-wed couples to rent flats from the HDB pending allocation of their new purchase flats to assist them in their efforts to set up a home.

*31. **Mr Sin Boon Ann:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) over the last 10 years, what is the number and percentage of students who qualified for the Gifted Education Programme (GEP) by attending special private tuition classes to prepare them for the GEP test; and (b) whether the Ministry will undertake such a survey and disclose its findings to the public, if these figures have not been collated yet.

*32. **Mr Teo Siong Seng:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether his Ministry will bring forward the plan to build an underground walkway linking City Hall MRT Station to the Capitol Building to prevent any road accident that may arise from MRT commuters dashing across North Bridge Road especially on rainy days.

*33. **Er Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the raising of overnight parking charges can adequately safeguard the interests of season parking tickets holders as well as better manage the parking demand at the carparks in HDB estates; (b) what data or studies have been done on overnight parking in HDB estates to support this decision; and (c) what is the Ministry's plan for other long term solutions to resolve the parking problems in HDB estates.

* 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 give their notices to the Clerk by 4.30 pm.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Introduction of Government Bills

1. **Minister for Finance:**

   (President's recommendation to be signified).

   Income Tax (Amendment) Bill.

2. **Minister for Finance:**

   (President's recommendation to be signified).

   Stamp Duties (Amendment No. 2) Bill.

3. **Minister for Law:**

   Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill.

4. **Minister for Law:**

   Subordinate Courts (Amendment) Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NOTICE OF MOTION

(Those marked • are Orders of the Day)

•1. Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 18/2010] – (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs) – Second Reading.

•2. Estate Agents Bill [Bill No. 19/2010] – (Minister for National Development) – Second Reading.

•3. National Productivity Fund Bill [Bill No. 20/2010] – (Minister for Finance) – Second Reading.

•4. Property Tax (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 21/2010] –(Minister for Finance) – Second Reading.

•5. International Child Abduction Bill [Bill No. 22/2010] – (Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports) – Second Reading.

6. **Leader of the House:**

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE: That the Standing Orders Committee appointed under paragraph 4(a) of Standing Order No. 100 do consider and report on such amendments to the Standing Orders of Parliament which the Committee may deem necessary.

MEMORANDUM

Matter proposed to be raised on the Motion for the Adjournment (Standing Order No. 2(8)(b)):-

Mr Zaqy Mohamad (Member for Hong Kah GRC) : Beyond YOG – A Biennial Singapore Games

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QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence whether he will consider assigning pre-enlistees who have completed their GCE 'A' Level Examinations from overseas institutions in June of any year for early enlistment to National Service in September of the same year.

2. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) what is the proportion of licences that are issued to non-Singapore citizens to work as security officers; and (b) what proportion of licensees are not working in that industry.

3. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs whether the Government has detained under the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act any person believed to have been organising drug trafficking activities which involved Yong Vui Kong, an inmate on death row.

4. **Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources (a) whether the Ministry approves of the plan to erect a wall in front of Liat Towers to alleviate potential or likely floods; (b) whether it will recommend the building of such walls outside buildings prone to flood waters; and (c) what other alternatives are being explored.

5. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports (a) what is the total amount of Government-paid maternity leave reimbursed over the last 2 years; (b) how many women benefited from the scheme and what were their profiles; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider loosening the criteria for eligibility so that more women can benefit from the enhanced maternity benefits.

6. **Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) if he will provide an update on the Continuing Education and Training system for the training of PMETs; and (b) given the upswing in the economy, how can the Ministry incentivise and motivate PMETs to go for training.

7. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in light of a recent incident where a foreign worker threatened to jump from a crane because of unpaid wages, whether the Ministry will provide an update on the measures that have been taken to prevent the exploitation and abuse of foreign workers, especially those working in the construction sector.

PAPERS PRESENTED

2010			*Date Presented*
S.L.	82	Road Traffic (Electronic Road Pricing System) (Amendment No. 5) Rules 2010	16th August, 2010
S.	41	Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board Annual Report 2009/2010	18th August, 2010
S.	42	JTC Corporation Annual Report FY2009	18th August, 2010
S.	43	Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore Annual Report 2009/2010	18th August, 2010
S.	44	IE Singapore Annual Report & Audited Financial Statements FY 2009/2010	24th August, 2010

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

2010			*Date Presented*
Pres. Co.	16	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Hostage -Taking Bill [Bill No 13/2010]	25th August, 2010
Pres. Co.	17	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Rapid Transit Systems (Amendment) Bill [Bill No 16/2010]	25th August, 2010
Pres. Co.	18	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill [Bill No 17/2010]	25th August, 2010
S.	45	Competition Commission of Singapore Annual Report 2009/2010	25th August, 2010
S.	46	Accounting & Corporate Regulatory Authority Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements 2009/2010	27th August, 2010
S.	47	Singapore Economic Development Board Annual Report and Financial Report 2009	27th August, 2010
S.	48	Energy Market Authority Annual Report 2009/2010	27th August, 2010
S.	49	Spring Singapore Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements 2009/2010	27th August, 2010
S.	50	Advice of Council of Presidential Advisers on the Appointment of Director of Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB)	30th August, 2010

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

2010			*Date Presented*
S.	51	Singapore Polytechnic Annual Report 2009/2010	31st August, 2010
S.	52	Temasek Polytechnic Annual Report 2009/2010	31st August, 2010
S.	53	Ngee Ann Polytechnic Annual Report 2009/2010	31st August, 2010
S.	54	Republic Polytechnic Annual Report 2009/2010	31st August, 2010
S.	55	Nanyang Polytechnic Annual and Financial Report for FY 2009/2010	31st August, 2010
S.	56	Science Centre Annual Report 2009/2010	31st August, 2010
S.	57	Institute of Technical Education Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2010	31st August, 2010
S.	58	Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Annual Report 2009/2010	31st August, 2010
S.	59	Singapore Sports Council Annual Report 2009/2010	1st September, 2010
S.	60	Advice of Council of Presidential Advisers on the Appointment of a Member of Public Service Commission	3rd September, 2010
S.	61	Singapore Tourism Board Annual Report 2009/2010	3rd September, 2010
S.L.	83	Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules 2010	6th September, 2010

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

2010			*Date Presented*
S.L.	84	Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) (Licensing of Importers, Wholesalers and Retailers) Regulations 2010	6th September, 2010
S.L.	85	Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) (Limits on Certain Substances) Regulations 2010	6th September, 2010
S.	62	Annual Report of the National Library Board 2009/2010	6th September, 2010
S.L.	86	Fees (Copies of Reports, Statements, Plans and Photographs) (Amendment) Order 2010	7th September, 2010
S.L.	87	Fees (Administration of Estates by Official Assignee) (Revocation) Order 2010	7th September, 2010
S.L.	88	Fees (Testing of Security Guard Dog Handlers) (Amendment) Order 2010	7th September, 2010
S.L.	89	Fees (Private Lotteries) (Amendment) Order 2010	7th September, 2010
S.L.	90	Central Provident Fund (Self-Employed Persons) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2010	8th September, 2010
S.L.	91	Central Provident Fund (Permanent Residents – Employees) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	8th September, 2010
S.L.	92	Central Provident Fund (Statutory Bodies and Aided Schools-Employees) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	8th September, 2010

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

2010			*Date Presented*
S.L.	93	Central Provident Fund (Government Employees) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2010	8th September, 2010
S.	63	Advice of the Council of Presidential Advisers on the Re-Appointment of Directors to the Board of Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Private Limited (GIC)	8th September, 2010
S.	64	Health Promotion Board Annual Report 2009/2010	9th September, 2010
S.	65	Annual Report of the Media Development Authority 2009/2010	9th September, 2010
S.	66	Annual Report of the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore 2009/2010	9th September, 2010
S.	67	Singapore Labour Foundation Annual Report 2009/10	9th September, 2010
S.	68	Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of Casino Regulatory Authority 2009/2010.....	9th September, 2010