

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION

SINGAPORE, 16TH OCTOBER, 1957

No. 38

10.00 a.m.

131

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

Mr. STANLEY TOFT STEWART, Chief Secretary (*Acting*).

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

- *1. Mr. LEE KUAN YEW: To ask the Minister for Labour and Welfare what is the present practice of the Government with regard to the entry of alien musicians and musical bands seeking employment in Singapore; and what is the Government's policy on the question of protecting local musicians from unemployment as a result of imported alien musicians.
- *2. Mr. LEE CHOON ENG: To ask the Minister for Labour and Welfare if he will state the Government's policy regarding—
 - (a) the entry from China of wives of Singapore residents who already have wives in Singapore; and
 - (b) the entry from China of aged parents of Singapore residents having no other relatives in China to look after them.
- *3. Mr. LEE KUAN YEW: To ask the Minister for Labour and Welfare whether and when his Ministry will implement the recommendation for a secret ballot in paragraph 9 (iii) (b) at page 8 of the Report of the Court of Inquiry into the Trade Dispute at the Singapore Harbour Board as contained in Sessional Paper No. S. 7 of 1957.
- *4. Mr. LEE KUAN YEW: To ask the Chief Secretary what was the purpose of a Singapore Government Press Statement issued at 1200 hours on 17th September, 1957, reference INFS. SE. 57/46, which quotes from "Travel News" the figures in U.S. dollars of foreign Government tourist office expenditures.
- *5. Mr. LEE KUAN YEW: To ask the Chief Secretary who will audit the Accounts of the Government of Singapore and its agencies when the office of the Director of Audit, Malaya, which appointment hitherto has been for both the Federation of Malaya and Singapore, is separated.
- *6. Mr. SEAH PENG CHUAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to state as at 10th October, 1957—
 - (i) the total number of expatriate officers who have left the service of the Singapore Government as a result of Malayanisation;
 - (ii) the number of such officers from each department; and
 - (iii) the total amount of compensation paid.
- *7. Mr. WILLIAM TAN: To ask the Chief Secretary whether, in view of the uneasiness and grave concern of trade unionists and Chinese-school teachers and students at the arrests by the Police in August and September this year under the Preservation of Public Security and Banishment Ordinances,

he will take steps for the early release of the innocent and give all other persons arrested an opportunity to answer the Government's allegations against them in open court.

- *8. Mr. LEE KUAN YEW: To ask the Chief Secretary whether he is aware of the public concern at the detention under the Banishment Ordinance of Dr. Chuang Chu Lin, a person reputed not to be a Communist; and whether, in view of the guarantees and assurances given by responsible Chinese educational and community leaders regarding Dr. Chuang's past and future activities, the Government will consider releasing him.
- *9. Mr. LEE CHOON ENG: To ask the Financial Secretary if the Government will consider making a grant of \$10,000 to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals towards the capital expenditure required to establish the Society's proposed premises at Pasir Panjang.
- *10. Mr. WILLIAM TAN: To ask the Financial Secretary whether in view of the recent increase in the bank rates and in view of the necessity to encourage more savings he will take steps, if necessary by amending legislation, with the object of raising the rate of interest payable on deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank.
- *11. Mr. LEE CHOON ENG: To ask the Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing whether he has received the Report of the Audit of the Accounts of the Singapore City Council for the year ended 31st December, 1956, by the Director of Audit, Mr. H. M. Watson, and—
(a) if he will make a statement on the aforesaid Report; and
(b) if he will consider taking steps with the view to the setting up of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the circumstances which led to the loss of public funds and property as contained in the Report and the lack of control of the Accounting System of the City Council, and to recommend what action is to be taken against the Heads of Departments concerned.
- *12. Mr. LEE CHOON ENG: To ask the Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing if he is aware of the difficulties experienced by the public in getting Singapore Improvement Trust houses, and if he will consider setting up a Committee of Inquiry to investigate the outstanding applications, and to recommend a revised system of allocation of Singapore Improvement Trust houses.
- *13. Mr. LEE CHOON ENG: To ask the Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing if he will make a statement on the progress in the establishment of a Housing Authority.
- *14. Mr. LIM KOON TECK: To ask the Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing whether he is aware that the residents of the Selegie Road/Short Street area who have to move to the alternative accommodation offered them in the Albert Street S.I.T. Flats are dissatisfied with the inadequate accommodation offered, viz., one bedroom and one sitting-room for a family of three to ten persons; and whether in view thereof he will consider, as a matter of re-housing policy, that provision be made in the Improvement Schemes for each dishoused family of five to ten persons to be given a flat consisting of two bedrooms and one sitting-room.
- *15. Mr. SEAH PENG CHUAN: To ask the Minister for Health to give details of the existing facilities in Government Hospitals for the treatment of cancer.

- *16. Mr. WILLIAM TAN: To ask the Minister for Communications and Works, with reference to the Post Office Savings Bank, whether he will consider making arrangements so as to allow a Singapore depositor to withdraw the whole or any part exceeding \$100 of the amount standing to his credit without reference to the Savings Bank Headquarters at Kuala Lumpur.
- *17. Mr. LIM CHOON MONG: To ask the Minister for Commerce and Industry to make a statement regarding the progress made by the Industrial Promotion Board, and also to state—
- (i) how many applications for aid have been received;
 - (ii) the number of applications that have actually received financial aid;
 - (iii) the number of applications still under consideration; and
 - (iv) the number of applications for aid that have been rejected.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Presentation of Government Bills

1. The Minister for Health—
Tan Tock Seng's Hospital (Amendment) Bill.
 2. The Financial Secretary—
Customs (Amendment) Bill.
 3. The Minister for Health—
Mental Disorders and Treatment (Amendment) Bill.
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ORDER OF THE DAY AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

(Those marked ● are Orders of the Day.)

- 1. Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill—Second Reading.†

2. The Financial Secretary to move—
(Governor's recommendation or consent to be signified.)

That this Assembly resolves that the sum of \$30,310 shall be supplied to the Government under the heads of expenditure and for the services specified in the Schedule contained in Sessional Paper No. Cmd. 41 of 1957.

3. The Financial Secretary to move—
(Governor's recommendation or consent to be signified.)

That this Assembly resolves that the sum of \$2,115,572 shall be supplied to the Government under the heads of expenditure and for the services specified in the Schedule contained in Sessional Paper No. Cmd. 42 of 1957.

4. The Financial Secretary to move—
(Governor's recommendation or consent to be signified.)

That this Assembly resolves that the sum of \$4,400 shall be supplied to the Government under the heads of expenditure and for the services specified in Schedule C contained in Sessional Paper No. Cmd. 43 of 1957.

5. The Financial Secretary to move—

That this Assembly, pursuant to subsection (1) of section 106 of the Income Tax Ordinance (Chapter 166), resolves that the Council of Malay-an Smallholders Association, Federation of Malaya, be added to the First Schedule to the said Ordinance.

6. The Financial Secretary to move—

WHEREAS by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly on the 7th day of March 1956 the City Council was empowered to borrow a sum not exceeding \$30,000,000 by the creation of debenture stock upon the terms more particularly described in the said resolution:

AND WHEREAS by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly on the 25th day of April 1957 the said sum of \$30,000,000 was increased to the sum of \$50,000,000:

AND WHEREAS under the said resolutions the sum of \$36,937,750 was duly subscribed leaving the sum of \$13,062,250 still unsubscribed and the Stock in respect thereof unissued:

This Assembly, in accordance with section 343 of the Municipal Ordinance (Chapter 133 of the 1936 Edition), sanctions the issue of Stock to raise the said sum of \$13,062,250, still unsubscribed at the 30th September, 1957, subject to the provisions of the Ordinance and to the further condition that the said sum of \$13,062,250 be raised by the issue of Debenture Stock at a discount of 10 *per centum*, i.e. at the price of \$90 for each \$100 of Stock bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum and repayable at par on the 1st day of May, 1976, or prior thereto at the City Council's option at par on any half-yearly interest date on or after the 1st day of May, 1966, upon six calendar months' notice being given.

7. The Assistant Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing to move—

That this Assembly approves the improvement rate of two *per centum* on the annual value of all houses, buildings, lands and tenements within the City of Singapore, fixed by the Singapore Improvement Trust under subsection (1) of section 22 of the Singapore Improvement Ordinance (Chapter 259) for the year 1958.

8. The Minister for Commerce and Industry to move—

That this Assembly, pursuant to subsection (2) of section 490 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance (Chapter 207), resolves that the Singapore Port Rules, 1957, published as Notification No. S 204 in the *Gazette Supplement* No. 59 dated 2nd August, 1957, as contained in Sessional Paper No. S.L. 16 of 1957, be approved.

9. The Minister for Commerce and Industry to move—

That this Assembly, in accordance with subsection (2) of section 1 of the Control of Imports and Exports Ordinance (Chapter 214), resolves that the aforesaid Ordinance shall continue in force for a further period of one year commencing on the 8th day of December, 1957.

10. The Minister for Communications and Works to move—

(Governor's recommendation or consent to be signified.)

That this Assembly takes note that the Government of Singapore, in conjunction with the Government of the Federation of Malaya, proposes to conclude an agreement, in terms as set out in Sessional Paper No. Cmd. 44 of 1957, with Malayan Airways Limited, a company to be reconstituted

as a public limited liability company registered in Singapore, for the maintenance and continued efficient operation of air services within and between the territories of Malaya, Singapore and North Borneo; and approves the purchase by the Government of Singapore, from the surplus funds of the Colony, of a proportion, to the value of \$500,000, of the share capital of the Company.

11. The Minister for Health to move—

That this Assembly, pursuant to subsection (3) of section 28 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 148), resolves that the Food and Drugs Regulations, 1957, published as Notification No. S 252 in the *Gazette Supplement* No. 73 of 4th October, 1957, as contained in Sessional Paper No. S.L. 18 of 1957, be approved.

12. The Chief Minister to move—

That this Assembly resolves—

that the Report of the Standing Orders Committee, as contained in Sessional Paper No. L.A. 13 of 1957, be adopted; and

that, pursuant to section 54 of the Singapore Colony Orders in Council, 1955 and 1956, the amendments to the Standing Orders as contained in Sessional Paper No. L.A. 13 of 1957 be made to the Standing Orders of this Assembly with effect from 1st November, 1957.

13. The Chief Minister to move—

That the Report of the Select Committee on the Singapore Citizenship Bill, as contained in Sessional Paper No. L.A. 18 of 1957, be adopted.

14. Mr. LIM KOON TECK (Member for Paya Lebar) to move—

That the Report of the Select Committee on the Little Sisters of the Poor Bill, as contained in Sessional Paper No. L.A. 17 of 1957, be adopted.

†NOTICE RELATING TO ORDER OF THE DAY

†Subject to this Bill passing its Second Reading, the Member in charge will move its Committee Stage and Third Reading.

QUESTION NOT FOR ORAL ANSWER

Mr. WILLIAM TAN: To ask the Minister for Labour and Welfare to state the numbers of men, women, boys and girls registered at the Government Employment Exchange as unemployed as at 30th September, 1957.

SESSIONAL PRINTED PAPERS PRESENTED

1957	<i>Date ordered to be printed.</i>
L.A. 16. Special Report from the Select Committee on the Luxury Tax Bill 13th September, 1957.
L.A. 17. Report from the Select Committee on the Little Sisters of the Poor Bill 18th September, 1957.
L.A. 18. Report from the Select Committee on the Singapore Citizenship Bill 30th September, 1957.

Date presented.

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| Cmd. 36. | Annual Report of the Department of Civil Aviation 1956 | 27th September, 1957. |
| Cmd. 37. | Report of the Committee on Hindu Marriage Registration | 2nd October, 1957. |
| Cmd. 38. | Annual Report of the Telecommunications Department 1956 | 3rd October, 1957. |
| Cmd. 39. | Annual Report of the Malayan Meteorological Service 1956 | 3rd October, 1957. |
| Cmd. 41. | Schedule of Applications for Supplementary Provision for which the Approval of the Legislative Assembly is sought ... | 9th October, 1957. |
| Cmd. 42. | Schedule of Applications for Supplementary Provision for which the Approval of the Legislative Assembly is sought ... | 9th October, 1957. |
| Cmd. 43. | Revision of Salaries in Division IV ... | 9th October, 1957. |
| Cmd. 44. | An Agreement to be made between the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and of Singapore of the one part and Malayan Airways Limited of the other part | 12th October, 1957. |
| Cmd. 40. | Income Tax Department Statistical Abstracts showing details of assessments made for 1955 up to 31st December, 1956, with particulars of assessments made and tax collected in 1956 | 14th October, 1957. |
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| S.L. 17. | The Local Forces (Civil Liability) (Amendment) Rules, 1957 | 30th September, 1957. |
| S.L. 19. | The Grant-in-Aid Regulations, 1957 ... | 3rd October, 1957. |
| S.L. 20. | The Merchant Shipping (Passenger Certificate Partial Survey Fees) (Amendment) Rules, 1957 | 10th October, 1957. |
| S.L. 18. | The Food and Drugs Regulations, 1957 ... | 11th October, 1957. |
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| S. 8. | Accounts of the Administrator of German Enemy Property for the half year ended 31st December, 1956, and the Report of the Director of Audit thereon ... | 16th September, 1957. |
| S. 9. | Report of a Court of Inquiry into the Dispute between the Malayasian Mariners' Union and the Singapore Pilot Association | 11th October, 1957. |
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