

SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

SECOND SESSION

ORDER PAPER

MONDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 1987

No. 45

11.00 a.m.

142

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

- *1. **Mr Ng Kah Ting:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) if he will ascertain from the Housing and Development Board whether the details for the sale of the 100 shops by public tender are ready; and (b) whether the Government will reconsider the plight of those shopkeepers affected by resettlement and give them a cash compensation or a choice to rent shops, indicating the number of shopkeepers affected as at 28th July, 1987.
- *2. **Encik Othman bin Haron Eusofe:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Housing and Development Board has formulated a programme to replace the old low-rise flats in the city with better quality flats and if he will elaborate on it; and what measures the HDB will take to alleviate hardship to families to be relocated.
- *3. **Mr S. Chandra Das:** To ask the Minister for the Environment (a) if he is aware of complaints by residents of the high noise level along Avenue 8 Ang Mo Kio covering the Cheng San, Chong Boon and Teck Ghee constituencies, as a result of the running of the Mass Rapid Transit lines; (b) whether his Ministry has conducted any studies on the noise level before and after the MRT lines became operational; and (c) what possible remedies, if any, can be introduced to reduce the excessive noise level experienced by the residents.
- *4. **Mr Goh Choon Kang:** To ask the Minister for the Environment what were the causes of the recent outbreak of dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever in Lorong Lew Lian.
- *5. **Dr Wong Kwei Cheong:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) what fire safety measures have been set up at the various MRT stations and (b) if fire drills will be conducted at regular intervals at any MRT station.

-
- *6. **Mr Heng Chiang Meng:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether a warrant for arrest has been issued against Father Edgar D'Souza which is the impression had by many groups in Australia and New Zealand; (b) whether Father Edgar D'Souza was involved in the Marxist conspiracy; and (c) whether his Ministry has received any complaints concerning the conduct of Father Edgar D'Souza.
- *7. **Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Minister for Finance whether any Government tax or levy is imposed on imported vegetables.
- *8. **Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Minister for Finance whether the Government has any intention to intervene in the local stock exchange, especially in relation to shares of companies which were first sold by the Government to the public who in turn bought those shares based on their confidence in the value of those shares held out by the Government to them.
- *9. **Mr S. Chandra Das:** To ask the Minister for Labour whether he is aware of difficulties faced by small and medium-sized Singapore companies to obtain work permits for foreign workers; and what are the general guidelines for granting the necessary approval to these companies.
- *10. **Mr Abdullah Tarmugi:** To ask the Minister for Labour what is the latest situation concerning the employment of older workers and what further plans his Ministry has to assist these workers to stay in employment.
- *11. **Mr Goh Chee Wee:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what is the Government's response to the recent statement by the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Treasury, blaming Singapore and the other Asian NICs for the US trade imbalance, and accusing Singapore of manipulating the exchange rate of the Singapore dollar to gain an unfair trading advantage; and (b) whether this move by the US government is related to its attempts to graduate Singapore prematurely out of the GSP scheme.
- *12. **Dr Koh Lam Son:** To ask the Acting Minister for Health whether the Blood Transfusion Services will consider notifying all blood donors of their Hepatitis B antibody status as a service to them.
- *13. **Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon:** To ask the Acting Minister for Health since the implementation of the various incentive schemes to encourage couples to have more children, how many per cent of working parents have made use of the tax relief scheme, child care leave and other schemes that are provided.
- *14. **Encik Othman bin Haron Eusofe:** To ask the Minister for National Development if he will give a report on the present state of the construction industry and indicate also the current employment prospects for Singaporeans in this industry.

-
- *15. **Mr Ng Kah Ting:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether there has been a recent price hike in some building materials; and (b) whether this will result in higher building costs of Housing and Development Board flats.
- *16. **Encik Ibrahim Othman:** To ask the Minister for the Environment (a) how many Muslims have signed up to be kidney donors; and (b) what steps the Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura is taking (i) to inform Muslims that kidney donation is permissible and (ii) to encourage more of them to be donors.
- *17. **Mr Abdullah Tarmugi:** To ask the Minister for Finance what is his Ministry's stand on the proposal by the General Insurance Association to fix the rates of motor insurance premiums in 1988.
- *18. **Encik Abbas Abu Amin:** To ask the Minister for Labour how many establishments have concluded wage reform agreements; of these, how many are unionised and non-unionised and what steps his Ministry is taking to get non-unionised establishments to expedite wage reform.
- *19. **Encik Abbas Abu Amin:** To ask the Minister for Labour, since the introduction of the Factories (Safety Committee) Regulations, 1975, (a) what percentage of factories, which are required to set up safety committees, have complied with the Regulations; and (b) what measures his Ministry has taken to ensure compliance with these Regulations by all affected factories.
- *20. **Mr Teo Chong Tee:** To ask the Acting Minister for Health (a) whether there is a shortage of nurses in each of the Government hospitals; (b) whether the shortage has somewhat affected the service provided to in-patients; (c) what measures are being taken to recruit and train more nursing staff; (d) whether the status of the nursing profession will be upgraded; and (e) why nurses are being deployed to perform some administrative functions as seen in the frontline areas of Government hospitals.
- *21. **Dr Koh Lip Lin:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the acreage of land which the Housing and Development Board will revert to the Land Office with the scaling down of its public housing programme in the next 5 years; and (b) how the HDB will project the demand for its flats in the light of its revised housing programme.
- *22. **Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Minister for National Development, in view of the great number of vacant plots of land and unoccupied office space available in the urban areas, whether he will consider stopping or slowing down the programme of clearance and demolition of rent-controlled premises.
- *23. **Encik Abbas Abu Amin:** To ask the Minister for Labour what steps are being taken by his Ministry to monitor and further reduce the accident rates in the construction and shipbuilding industries.
-

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS
Introduction of Government Bills

- 1. First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence:**
Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill.
 - 2. First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence:**
Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment No. 2) Bill.
 - 3. Minister for Law:**
Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill.
 - 4. Minister for Community Development:**
Child Care Centres Bill.
-

ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS*(Those marked • are Orders of the Day)*

- 1. Evidence (Amendment) Bill — (Minister for Law) — Second Reading.
 - 2. Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill — (Minister for Finance) — Second Reading.
 - 3. Singapore Totalisator Board Bill — (Minister for Finance) — Second Reading.
 - 4. Income Tax (Amendment) Bill — (Minister for Finance) — Second Reading.
 - 5. Central Provident Fund (Amendment No. 2) Bill — (Minister for Labour) — Second Reading.
-

MEMORANDUM

Matter proposed to be raised on the Motion for the Adjournment (Standing Order No. 1(8)(b)):

Mr Chiam See Tong ... By-elections at Anson and Geylang West
(Member for Potong Pasir) Constituencies.

PAPERS PRESENTED

	<i>1987</i>	<i>Date Presented</i>
S.	35 Annual Report of the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research 1986/87	7th November, 1987.
S.L.	45 National Library Board Rules 1987 ...	10th November, 1987.
Cmd.	16 Report on Registration of Births and Deaths 1986	12th November, 1987.
S.L.	46 Immigration (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 1987	13th November, 1987.

PAPERS PRESENTED — *continued*

<i>1987</i>				<i>Date Presented</i>
S.L.	47	Passports (Amendment) Regulations 1987		13th November, 1987.
S.L.	48	Motor Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Rules 1987		14th November, 1987.
S.	36	Annual Report of the National Productivity Board 1986/87		16th November, 1987.
S.	37	Statement of Accounts of the Preservation of Monuments Board 1986/87		21st November, 1987.
