

TENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

FIRST SESSION

REVISED ORDER PAPER

FRIDAY, 3RD MAY, 2002

No. 7

12.30 p.m.

19

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Mr Leong Horn Kee:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will give an update on the on-going talks with Malaysia on the various bilateral issues currently under discussion.
- *2. **Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Prime Minister whether for the next General Election he is willing to (i) release the report of the Boundaries Review Committee at least six months before the dissolution of Parliament; (ii) limit the number of candidates in a Group Representation Constituency to three or, in any case, to not more than six; (iii) reduce the election deposit from \$13,000 to \$3,000 for each candidate; (iv) have more than one designated rally site in a single-member constituency; and (v) increase the number of days for campaigning from eight to fourteen days.
- *3. **Dr Ong Chit Chung:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will inform the House of Singapore's position on recent disturbing developments on the Middle East situation, including the position Singapore has taken in the United Nations Security Council.
- *4. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for Manpower, with the increasing use of contracts for services in engaging workers when they are obviously employees, what more can his Ministry do to prevent employers from denying such workers their benefits under the Employment Act and the Central Provident Fund Act.
- *5. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for Manpower what steps are being taken to ensure that foreign workers are not unfairly repatriated by employers before they can make their claims for unpaid wages and other benefits.

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- *6. Assoc Prof Chin Tet Yung:** To ask the Minister for the Environment (a) what measures are in place to warn the public about the opening of tidal gates at the Kranji river and reservoir and (b) whether there are any other areas in Singapore where there are similar situations.
- *7. Dr Amy Khor Lean Suan:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the number of applications received by the Housing and Development Board for deferment and loan restructuring of the mortgage loan instalment payment since 2001 by size of flats; (b) how have the numbers changed over time; and (c) the number of such outstanding cases also by size of flats.
- *8. Mr Gan Kim Yong:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Primary Care Partnership Scheme has been effective and, if so, (b) whether his Ministry will consider expanding the Scheme so that more residents may be eligible to benefit from it.
- *9. Mr Andy Gan Lai Chiang:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how many Singaporeans have qualified under the Primary Care Partnership Scheme since it was implemented on 1st October 2000 as a pilot scheme and extended on 1st March 2002; (b) how much has the amount of Government subsidy increased as a result of this scheme; and (c) what are the plans to expand this scheme to cover more people in need.
- *10. Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what measures are being taken to better prepare and train our uniformed servicemen and population on enhanced community security.
- *11. Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what proportion of the time in the curriculum and the student's time in school is devoted to promoting and nurturing creativity and (b) will his Ministry be conducting a study to evaluate the success of this effort and, if so, what kind of performance indicator will be used.
- *12. Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development and Sports in view of the importance of closing the religious and racial divide with activities such as the Inter-Racial Confidence Circles and more diverse ethnic representation at grassroot activities and youth groups, (a) whether his Ministry is monitoring the progress of these activities and (b) what are the criteria used to monitor them.
- *13. Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development and Sports what further measures the Ministry will take (i) to alleviate the sense of loneliness and alienation faced by senior citizens; and (ii) to allow them to remain economically active.

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- *14. Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong:** To ask the Minister for National Development if there are plans to ease restrictions on the use of Housing and Development Board flats for other quiet, desk-bound businesses, other than the current technopreneur scheme.
- *15. Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong:** To ask the Minister for National Development, with NTUC FairPrice planning mega stores in Housing and Development Board (HDB) estates, what will be the impact on small HDB shop owners in these affected areas, especially those who have just bought their shops from HDB.
- *16. Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Minister for National Development when will the residents of Sennett Estate and the other blocks in the same precinct get the upgrading of their precinct since they make up more than 50 per cent of the votes for the People's Action Party candidate at the last General Election.
- *17. Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Acting Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts whether he is willing to open a neighbourhood library in Potong Pasir Estate this year and, if not, whether he is willing to assist the Potong Pasir Town Council to secure a void deck space to start a library there.

* 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 and should be given to the Clerk at the end of Question Time.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Introduction of Government Bills

1. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance:

(President's recommendation to be signified).

Supply Bill.

2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance:

(President's recommendation to be signified).

Final Supply (FY 2001) Bill.

3. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance:

Statutory Corporations (Capital Contribution) Bill.

4. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance:

(President's recommendation to be signified).

Government Securities (Amendment) Bill.

5. Minister for Trade and Industry:

Trade Development Board (Amendment) Bill.

6. Minister for National Development:

Sale of Food (Amendment) Bill.

7. Minister for National Development:

Agri-food and Veterinary Authority (Amendment) Bill.

8. Minister for Education:

Republic Polytechnic Bill.

9. Minister for the Environment:

National Environment Agency Bill.

10. Minister for the Environment:

Sewerage and Drainage (Amendment) Bill.

Business Motion**1. Deputy Leader of the House:**

QUESTION TIME: That, notwithstanding the resolution on the revision of Question Time on 2 April 2002, the times stipulated under Standing Orders No. 21(1) and No. 88(2) shall apply at this day's sitting.

ORDER OF THE DAY AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

(That marked • is Order of the Day)

- 1. Final Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1st April, 2001 to 31st March, 2002 (Paper Cmd. 2 of 2002) – Committee of Supply (Allotted Day).

2. **Minister for Law:**

RECLAMATION: PULAU AYER MERBAU / PULAU SERAYA (JURONG ISLAND): That this Parliament, in accordance with Section 4 of the Foreshores Act (Cap 113), approves the reclamation by the Government of the foreshore and seabed at Pulau Merbau / Pulau Seraya (Jurong Island) containing an area of about 87ha as shown coloured pink on the plan marked 'SINGAPORE LAND AUTHORITY RECLAMATION PLAN NO 1/2002', which is deposited in the office of the Singapore Land Authority, Singapore.

3. **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance:**

BUDGET STATEMENT: That Parliament approves the financial policy of the Government for the financial year 1st April, 2002 to 31st March, 2003.

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) how his Ministry intends to protect the interest of the public when they remit their money overseas through licensed remittance companies and (b) whether his Ministry will review the existing rules with a view to bring those rules in line with those made for banks.
2. **Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) if the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) has any investments in Enron, the collapsed American energy trader; and (b) if so, what is GIC's investment level and percentage holding in Enron.
3. **Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what is the breakdown, by nationality and motorcycle capacity, of fatal motorcycle accidents in Singapore from 1997 - 2001.
4. **Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether there are plans by the Traffic Police Department to work with motorcycling clubs and interest groups to improve rider skills and defensive riding, with the aim of promoting better road safety.

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5. **Ms Irene Ng Phek Hoong:** To ask the Minister for Manpower for a breakdown in the profile of the unemployed over the last five years in terms of their (i) age group, (ii) gender, (iii) marital status and (iv) education level.
6. **Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong:** To ask the Minister for National Development if the Housing and Development Board (HDB) will remove restrictions on the rental of whole HDB units to allow aged parents who opt to stay with their children, to earn extra income.
7. **Mdm Cynthia Phua:** To ask the Minister for Education, from 1997 – 2001 (a) what is the number of early secondary school leavers who did not complete their education; (b) what are the reasons causing them to leave school early; and (c) what is the number of students falling within each of the reasons.
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PAPERS PRESENTED

<i>2002</i>			<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	30	Factories (Registration and other Services – Fees and Forms) (Amendment) Regulations 2002	4th April, 2002
S. L.	31	Factories (Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction) (Amendment) Regulations 2002	4th April, 2002
S.	59	Annual Report of the National University of Singapore 2000/2001	5th April, 2002
S. L.	32	Customs (Duties) (Amendment) Order 2002	6th April, 2002
Cmd.	1	Annual Report of the Ministry of Manpower 2001	8th April, 2002
S. L.	33	Rules of Court (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2001	8th April, 2002
S. L.	34	Rules of Court (Amendment) Rules 2002	8th April, 2002
S.	60	Annual Report of the Public Transport Council 2000/2001	9th April, 2002

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

<i>2002</i>			<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	35	Fees (Certificate of No Criminal Conviction) Order 2002	9th April, 2002
S. L.	36	Fees (Registrar of Criminals) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2002	9th April, 2002
S.	61	Advice of the Council of Presidential Advisers on the Re-Appointment of Deputy Chairman Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)	11th April, 2002
Parl.	1	Report of the Committee of Selection ...	11th April, 2002
Cmd.	2	Final Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 1st April 2001 to 31st March 2002	23rd April, 2002
S. L.	37	Sewerage and Drainage (Trade Effluent) (Amendment) Regulations 2002	24th April, 2002
S. L.	38	Central Provident Fund (Disciplinary Proceedings) (Amendment) Rules 2002	25th April, 2002
S. L.	39	Rules of Court (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2002	26th April, 2002
Cmd.	3	The Budget for the Financial Year 2002/2003	29th April, 2002
Misc.	1	Statement of the Minister for Finance (Under Article 147(4)(a) of the Constitution)	29th April, 2002
S.	62	Annual Report of the Public Service Commission 2001	29th April, 2002