

TENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

FIRST SESSION

ORDER PAPER

MONDAY, 13TH MAY, 2002

No. 8

12.30 p.m.

26

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **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.
- *2. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for Transport what measures are being taken to ensure PSA Corporation Limited's competitiveness in view of the intense challenge posed by other ports to PSA's premier position.
- *3. **Mr Andy Gan Lai Chiang:** To ask the Minister for Transport with growing competition from other countries setting in, what are the plans to keep Singapore an important air hub over the next 10 years.
- *4. **Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether there is a procedure to audit the use of government infrastructures such as educational institutions, voluntary welfare centres, family service centres, community centres and sports centres to ensure their efficient utilisation and (b) whether a system can be put in place for voluntary welfare organizations and grassroots and civic organisations, such as Community Development Councils, Citizens Consultative Committees, Community Club/Centre Management Committees and Residents' Committees to share any surplus capacity.
- *5. **Ms Penny Low:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether the income tax rebates given to parents for procreation can be extended to offset other types of taxes like property tax and vehicle tax, as many do not pay income tax and hence will not be able to benefit from the procreation tax rebate scheme.

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- *6. Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) what is the amount of tax dollars earned for each litre of petrol consumed at petrol stations; and (b) whether, in view of the rising petrol prices, there are plans to reduce the petrol tax.
- *7. Ms Irene Ng Phek Hoong:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the success rate of job-matching for workers aged above 40; (b) how many older workers have been employed under the People for Jobs Traineeship Programme since it was introduced and (c) whether his Ministry has received complaints of age discrimination in the job market and, if so, how does it address this concern of older workers.
- *8. 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.
- *9. 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.
- *10. Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Minister for Health whether his Ministry will make it compulsory to label all food products sold in Singapore with the necessary dietary information.
- *11. 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.
- *12. Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how many formerly incarcerated individuals have applied for civil service jobs and how many were successful in their applications; (b) what were the factors that limited their opportunities to gain employment with the civil service; and (c) whether there are plans to “declassify” some formerly incarcerated individuals to enhance their employment potential by the civil service.
- *13. 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.

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- *14. 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.
- *15. 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.
- *16. Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development and Sports (a) what is the trend of sexual abuse cases involving women and children and (b) what measures are being put in place to deal with and deter such abuse.
- *17. Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development and Sports (a) what is the extent of the problem of early marriages; and (b) what programmes are and will be in place to address this trend.
- *18. 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.
- *19. 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.
- *20. Ms Irene Ng Phek Hoong:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the trend of maid abuse cases; (b) has there been a study to determine the causes of maid abuse in our society; and (c) are the present measures to stem such abuse and to safeguard the welfare of foreign domestic workers sufficient.
- *21. 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.

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- *22. Mr Gan Kim Yong:** To ask the Minister for Education what counselling or support services are available in the schools or in his Ministry to help students in the primary and secondary schools cope with the psychological pressure they may face from time to time.
- *23. Dr Lily Neo:** To ask the Minister for Education if he can provide a breakdown of the cost of training a medical student at the National University of Singapore.
- *24. 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.

ORDER OF THE DAY

1. BUDGET STATEMENT: *Resumption of Debate on Question (3rd May, 2002) (Allotted Day)*, "That Parliament approves the financial policy of the Government for the financial year 1st April, 2002 to 31st March, 2003.". – (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance).
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PAPERS PRESENTED

2002				Date Presented
S. L.	40	Fees (Income Tax) Order 2002	4th May 2002
S. L.	41	Fees (Police Services) (Amendment) Order 2002	4th May 2002
S. L.	42	Central Provident Fund (Approved Middle-Income Housing Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2002	...	7th May 2002
