

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE  
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER  
WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2024

No. 126

10.30 am

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER\*

- \*1. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Education in each year from 2017 to 2023 (a) how many international students who received the MOE Tuition Grant graduated from local Institutes of Higher Learning; (b) how many failed to update the Ministry of their employment status with Singapore entities within (i) one year (ii) two years or (iii) three years of graduation; and (c) what are the most common reasons cited for being unable to find work in Singapore entities.
- \*2. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Education in each year from 2017 to 2023 (a) how many international students who received the MOE Tuition Grant applied for bond deferments due to their inability to find work in a Singapore entity; and (b) how many were granted bond deferments on that basis.
- \*3. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information given that online advertisements on social media platforms are easily uploaded by individuals based on the social media platforms' rules of engagement, what are the safeguards that the Ministry has put in place to ensure that these rules of engagement are relevant and in line with local regulations and best practices.
- \*4. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry will consider reviewing the Healthcare Services Act 2020 to enhance the recognition and regulation of mental health professionals, such as registered psychologists, to reflect the growing need for accessible mental healthcare services; and (b) whether the review can include allowing mental health professionals to use the terms "doctors" and "treatment" under ethical guidelines and within their scope of practice to encourage people to seek treatment for mental health conditions.
- \*5. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) in the last 10 years, how many street hawking licences have been issued for streetside ice-cream vendors; (b) how many of these vendors are still active today; (c) whether the licences from the inactive vendors may be transferred to new applicants; and (d) how much longer will streetside ice-cream vendors be allowed to exist.
- \*6. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry in light of the ongoing challenges in China's property sector and current economic uncertainties (a) whether the Ministry foresees increased trade opportunities for ASEAN countries, including Singapore, with China; and (b) how is the Ministry supporting Singaporean businesses to navigate these changing economic circumstances in the region.
- \*7. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Health for each year over the last three years (a) what is the number of mid-career entrants who took up non-nursing roles at senior or ageing care facilities via Government-funded career programmes; (b) what is the retention rate of the mid-career entrants; and (c) what measures will the Ministry be introducing to improve the retention rate.
- \*8. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Ministry will consider more bus services to be introduced for Fernvale in view of the increase in the number of HDB flats and the pending completion of the LRT system upgrade.

- \*9. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Ministry is exploring alternative measures beyond the existing support measures, including reducing the overall cost of HDB BTO flats which may lead to reduced resale flat values, to address ongoing concerns regarding the affordability of BTO and resale flats; and (b) what are the specific risks and concerns related to such an approach.

\* Members may postpone their Questions to a later sitting day if their Questions are not reached by the end of Question Time (QT). For such Questions, Members may email to [parl\\_cop@parl.gov.sg](mailto:parl_cop@parl.gov.sg) in advance a postponement notice that will be effected after QT. Members must submit their notices to the Clerk within one hour after the end of QT (SO 22(3)). Questions will be given a written answer if no such notices are received by the Clerk within the stipulated time.

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### 1. BUDGET STATEMENT:

*Resumption of Debate on Question (16 February 2024) (3<sup>rd</sup> Allotted Day) –*

“That Parliament approves the financial policy of the Government for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.” – (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance).

### 2. Estimates for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 (Paper Cmd. 27 of 2024) – Committee of Supply (1<sup>st</sup> Allotted Day).

[For amendments to be moved in the Committee of Supply, see Supplement No. 19 dated 28 February 2024.]

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## QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

- 1. Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) within the Public Service, what is the current number of (i) Singapore permanent residents and (ii) foreigners employed; and (b) where are non-citizen officers employed in the Public Service.
- 2. Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Prime Minister from 2010 to 2023 (a) how many individuals who applied to civil service jobs were rejected; and (b) how many of these rejections were due to failing background or security checks.
- 3. Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance what is the current amount of budget spent on outsourced IT and non-IT activities for the whole of Government.
- 4. Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance since the introduction of the grants governance framework in 2020 (a) what is the number and proportion of economic and social grants disbursed under the framework that did not meet their targeted outcomes; (b) how does the framework require accountability from these grant disbursing agencies; and (c) for grants that met the targeted outcomes, what was the monetary value of the average return on grant.
- 5. Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what are the measures in place to manage increased crowd volumes in city areas during festive seasons; (b) how does the Ministry ensure effective coordination among various entities such as police, emergency services and Government agencies before and during festive events; and (c) how is the Ministry leveraging on technology, such as surveillance cameras and crowd monitoring software, to enhance crowd control and ensure public safety.

6. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry whether the Government will conduct a review of the Industry Transformation Maps to ensure that they are consistent with the outcomes of the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), including but not limited to transitioning away from fossil fuels, tripling renewable energy capacity, doubling rate of energy efficiency and cutting methane emissions.
7. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what are the potential implications of a dominant player emerging in the ride hailing and taxi services market for both (i) consumers and (ii) drivers; and (b) what measures are in place to prevent the creation of a monopoly in the Singapore market and to ensure a competitive landscape.
8. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Ministry tracks that companies tapping on Government grants for internationalisation uphold responsible Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices in the countries that they expand into; (b) what actions does the Ministry take if these companies are found to be irresponsible; and (c) what are the measures to guide these companies to uphold Singapore's reputation as an ESG hub.
9. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether an update can be provided on the current status of bacterial contamination in Singapore's coastal waters; (b) what monitoring systems are in place to detect harmful bacteria levels in sea water; and (c) how frequent are bacterial contamination tests conducted.
10. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) how will the bacterial contamination in Singapore's coastal waters affect marine ecosystems and biodiversity in the coastal areas; and (b) what steps are being taken to assess and mitigate the environmental impact of such contamination.
11. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment what are the measures taken by the Singapore Food Agency vis-à-vis local cooked food retail establishments, supermarkets, food e-commerce sellers and delivery platform operators to assure Singaporeans that the delivered food items are safe for consumption in view of extreme weather conditions extending the time taken for delivery and hotter weather.
12. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment what are the measures put in place to assure end users that water from water coolers at buildings, public sites and schools is safe for consumption.
13. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Education for schools and tertiary education institutions that do not have a dedicated lactation room, what is the Ministry's timeline for working with them to set up such a room.
14. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether HDB has considered (i) installing stair lifts or escalators or (ii) redevelopment, for HDB blocks that still lack direct lift access and, if not, why not.
15. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how many single unwed parents applied for interim housing under Parenthood Provisional Housing Scheme in 2023; and (b) what are the outcomes of the applications.

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16. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Ministry will consider assessing the effectiveness of cooling measures implemented to address concerns about million-dollar and high-value resale HDB flats, particularly the extended waiting period for private property downgraders; and (b) whether this measure has influenced the quantity of million-dollar or high-value resale transactions and, if so, to what extent.
  17. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) what policies or regulations are in place to manage the exposure of youths to potentially addictive gaming content; (b) whether the Ministry has any plans to deal with gaming addiction among youths; and (c) what preventive measures are being implemented to educate youths and their families about the risks of gaming addiction.
  18. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) whether the Ministry has current data on the prevalence of gaming addiction among youths in Singapore; and (b) how does the Ministry assess the impact of gaming addiction on the physical and mental health of youths.
  19. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the “Work Injury Compensation Designated Insurers Manual” specified in the licensing conditions for insurers under the Work Injury Compensation Act can be made public and not just to insurers.
  20. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower for each year in the past three years for investigated cases involving employers receiving kickbacks from migrant workers (a) what is the number of migrant workers affected per employer; and (b) what is the range of the amount of kickbacks paid.
  21. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the current median number of travellers crossing the land border at Woodlands Checkpoint by public transport per day; (b) what is the maximum recorded number of travellers crossing the land border at Woodlands Checkpoint by public transport per hour; and (c) how does this maximum compare against the projected number of passengers that can be cleared per hour in each direction by the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System.
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