

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER
THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2024

No. 132

10.30 am

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Defence (a) what efforts have been taken to address mental health issues affecting national servicemen; and (b) what are the plans to strengthen mental health support in the Singapore Armed Forces.
- *2. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Defence what are the recent steps taken by the Ministry to improve the mental health and well-being of (i) Full-time National Servicemen and (ii) Operationally Ready National Servicemen.
- *3. **Ms Nadia Ahmad Samdin:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the planned capacity increase for patients seeking mental health specialist care by 2030 at (i) IMH and (ii) Alexandra Hospital; and (b) what steps will be taken to support the necessary resources required.
- *4. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how many new Active Ageing Centres will be set up in the next five years; and (b) how does the Ministry select which charity or entity to operate these centres.
- *5. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in view that many seniors live in mature estates whose HDB flats have shorter remaining leases and lower resale values, whether the Ministry will consider reassessing the use of HDB flat type as an eligibility criteria for the Silver Support Scheme, especially with regard to the ownership of 5-room or larger HDB flats which disqualifies a senior from receiving Silver Support.
- *6. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Ministry will provide an update on the study into a ban on electric collars for animal training; and (b) whether the Ministry will study the enforcement mechanisms for the Guidelines for Rehoming and Adoption of Dogs developed by the Rehoming and Adoption Workgroup.
- *7. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether an update can be provided on the situation where ambulances are delayed as patients cannot be triaged by hospital staff due to peak caseloads at hospitals' emergency departments; and (b) what are the Ministry's measures and strategies to inform the public to seek medical assistance away from hospitals' emergency departments in non-emergency cases.
- *8. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the number of lactation rooms in autonomous universities, polytechnics and the Institutes of Technical Education campuses are based on the size of the campuses; and (b) if so, what is the average area of the campus in square metres that is served by one lactation room.

- *9. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry has conducted comparative assessments of similar medical procedures across different countries to understand the medical cost variations; (b) whether the Ministry can provide details on the factors contributing to higher medical costs in Singapore, particularly the role played by our healthcare insurance system; and (c) whether the Government will consider conducting bi-annual reviews of all healthcare charges to ensure they are fair and affordable.
- *10. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether there will be an increase in the value of \$70,000 under the Town Council Financial Rules above which tendering procedures will be adopted; (b) if so, whether the value will correspond with the current estimated procurement value of \$90,000 under GeBiz; and (c) if not, why not.
- *11. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry has conducted a review of the 2021 study by the Singapore Counselling Services on teachers' mental health; (b) if so, what measures have the Ministry taken in light of the survey results; and (c) if not, why not and whether the Ministry will conduct a review.
- *12. **Ms Nadia Ahmad Samdin:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) what percentage of families currently receiving the ComLink+ enhancement package have had at least one session with their appointed family coaches and what is the expected frequency in the number of future check-ins with family coaches; and (b) among households eligible for ComLink+, what is the current average monthly pre-school fees per child above three years old.
- *13. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how are lessons on the war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza shared with students in schools; and (b) whether teachers are engaged or consulted before such lessons are made, considering the teachers' diverse individual views and convictions.
- *14. **Ms Nadia Ahmad Samdin:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how are schools equipped to engage students in current affairs such as the Israel-Palestine crisis; (b) whether the Ministry can provide some examples of current affairs issues which have been incorporated into school lessons; and (c) what is the role which educational institutions play in encouraging youths to be thoughtful and compassionate global citizens.
- *15. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether he can make public the content and materials of the Character and Citizenship Education lesson on the Israel-Hamas conflict; and (b) whether any teacher has declined to deliver a lesson and, if so, how is such a situation dealt with.
- *16. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for Education what have been the lessons learnt arising from feedback and concerns raised by some parents about the historically selective and allegedly imbalanced treatment of the Israel-Hamas conflict under the Character and Citizenship Education curriculum.
- *17. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether primary school students are being taught about the Israel-Hamas conflict, either in the Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) curriculum or otherwise; and (b) if so, at which levels are students taught about the conflict; and (c) how are the contents differentiated among the different levels to take into account the different maturity levels of the students.
- *18. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how does the Ministry incorporate feedback from stakeholders including students, parents and educators in the development and periodic review of the Character and Citizenship Education curriculum; and (b) whether there are plans to increase transparency and stakeholder involvement in curriculum updates concerning global issues.

- *19. Mr Sharael Taha:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether teachers have the option to express their unease in delivering the Character and Citizenship Education lesson package on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza; (b) what support is provided to these teachers in their delivery of the lesson package where they receive backlash from parents, stakeholders and the general public; and (c) whether the school management will take actions against teachers who are the subject of complaints.
- *20. Mr Sharael Taha:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what considerations does the Ministry take into account when deciding which current issues to include as a compulsory part of the Character and Citizenship Education curriculum; (b) how does the Ministry identify which global events and international conflicts will require it to provide students with a safe space to discuss such topics; and (c) how does the Ministry determine that its curriculum content on such topics is up to date and provides a comprehensive overview.
- *21. Mr Sharael Taha:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how does the Ministry prepare teachers to deliver the Character and Citizenship Education lesson package on the crisis in Gaza to ensure students appreciate the different dimensions of the crisis and discuss issues in a sensitive and respectful manner; and (b) how does the Ministry ensure that teachers do not impose their own views or advocate the interests of one of the parties involved.

* 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 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.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS
Introduction of Government Bills

- 1. Minister for Home Affairs:**
Law Enforcement and Other Matters Bill.
- 2. Minister for Home Affairs:**
Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Bill.
- 3. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance:**
Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill.
(President's recommendation signified).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

- 1. Estimates for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 (Paper Cmd. 27 of 2024) – Committee of Supply (Progress: 6 March 2024) (7th Allotted Day).**
Resumption of Debate on Question (6 March 2024)
“That the total sum to be allocated for Head X of the Estimates be reduced by \$100.” – (Mr Sitoh Yih Pin).
[For amendments to be moved in the Committee of Supply, see Supplement No. 19 dated 28 February 2024.]

2. Supply Bill [Bill No. 8/2024] – (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance) – Second Reading.
 3. Supplementary Supply (FY 2023) Bill [Bill No. 9/2024] – (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance) – Second Reading.
 4. Financial Institutions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill [Bill No. 4/2024] – (Prime Minister) – Second Reading.
 5. Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 7/2024] – (Minister for Health) – Second Reading.
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QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Ms Nadia Ahmad Samdin:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether he can provide an update on how much funds have been disbursed under the \$20 million Exploiting Distributed Generation Programme in partnership with the Singapore Institute of Technology since 2018; and (b) what are the key successes of the programme to date.
2. **Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Minister for Education in each year from 2019 to 2023 (a) what is the number of students including undergraduates and postgraduates with criminal records or criminal antecedents admitted into (i) polytechnics and (ii) autonomous universities; and (b) if such data is currently unavailable, whether the Ministry will consider collecting this data.
3. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what are the steps taken by the Ministry to check on the emotional well-being of students during and after discussions on global conflicts; and (b) how are students encouraged to express their thoughts and emotions in a respectful and constructive manner.
4. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what specific training and resources does the Ministry provide to equip teachers to handle sensitive discussions such as global conflicts in a balanced, sensitive and informative manner; and (b) how does the Ministry ensure that personal biases do not influence the delivery of such topics.
5. **Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) from 2019 to 2023, what is the annual number of persons with criminal records or criminal antecedents who undertook SkillsFuture courses; and (b) if such data is unavailable, whether the Ministry will collect this data to provide ex-offenders a better second chance.
6. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) over the last five years, what is the annual number of Singaporeans diagnosed with young onset dementia (YOD); (b) what are the support extended to families whose breadwinners are affected by YOD; (c) to what extent is treatment of YOD covered under prevailing healthcare insurances; and (d) what are the plans to increase awareness of YOD symptoms and screening venues among those aged 35 and above.
7. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) besides MediFund and MediSave, what other sources of funding can patients or caregivers of patients with rare diseases tap on when the treatments are not covered by the Rare Disease Fund considering that treatments are often expensive; and (b) whether the Ministry can provide avenues for social support to caregivers of patients with rare diseases so that they do not feel isolated.
8. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower what recourse is available to workers whose work injury compensation claims take more than a year to process given the one-year limit for making a claim.

9. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in each year of the past five years (a) how many confidential reports on employment infringements have been made to the Ministry; and (b) what are the top three categories of violations reported to the Ministry.
 10. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the Government can consider using the revenues generated from the increase and adjustment in foreign worker levy rates for S Pass and Work Permit holders as set out in Budget 2022 to subsidise the training of lower-wage work permit workers, particularly in workplace safety and health to enhance safety and improve productivity.
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