

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER
TUESDAY, 9 MAY 2023

No. 103

11.00 am

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) how has the Singapore-Shanghai Comprehensive Cooperation Council benefitted Singapore since its inception; and (b) what are the plans to deepen ties between Singapore and Shanghai.
- *2. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what are the typical reasons given by households for not collecting the Bloobox; (b) what is the feedback given by households that have collected the Bloobox regarding its usefulness for their recycling efforts; (c) what are the measurable targets that NEA has set to determine the success of the Bloobox initiative; and (d) what will the Ministry do with uncollected boxes after the deadline for collection on 30 April 2023 has lapsed.
- *3. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Transport in relation to the illegal practice of ‘bilge dumping’ by tankers which is the dumping of oily wastewater from the engine room of ships (a) what is the Government’s assessment of the impact this has on Singapore; (b) what means are currently used to track the extent of bilge dumping in Singapore waters; and (c) whether Singapore works with authorities in neighbouring countries to track ships carrying out this practice and take enforcement action against them.
- *4. **Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development whether the Ministry will consider reviewing the income criteria for the Student Care Fee Assistance to reduce out-of-pocket Student Care Centre fee expenses.
- *5. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) among the myocarditis cases which have been diagnosed in Singapore patients after receiving COVID-19 vaccinations, how many of these cases have reported the initial symptoms within (i) one day (ii) two days and (iii) one week of the vaccination; (b) how many of these cases have been referred to the Vaccine Injury Financial Assistance Programme (VIFAP); and (c) what are the VIFAP outcomes for such cases.
- *6. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Health whether there is updated information as of April 2023 on (i) the number of Vaccine Injury Financial Assistance Programme (VIFAP) applications that have been received for persons presenting with cardiac conditions after COVID-19 vaccination and (ii) the number of such VIFAP cases that have undergone further retrospective review in light of subsequent updated information on COVID-19 vaccination side effects including myocarditis.
- *7. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the number of home rental scams using online platforms has increased in the past 12 months; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider introducing further safeguards to protect homeowners whose homes have been used in such scams from liabilities.

- *8. **Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether he can provide an update on the inclusion of content relating to animal welfare in the Character and Citizenship education syllabus; (b) what have been the findings from the introduction of this teaching element in terms of student engagement and impact; and (c) whether this teaching element makes reference to recent cases of animal cruelty.
- *9. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) with the replacement of Network Capacity Factor to exclude ridership in the new Fare Adjustment Formula, how will fare changes take into account lower ridership or demand; and (b) besides the Thomson-East Coast Line, whether the Capacity Adjustment Factor has considered the anticipated opening of additional stations in Downtown Line, Circle Line and Jurong Region Line from 2025 to 2028.
- *10. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether the Government is anticipating a further rise in bankruptcy applications in 2023; and (b) whether residential and commercial mortgage listings are at risk of rising further amid higher interest rates and a tougher business climate.
- *11. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Ministry plans to track cases of seniors who pass away undetected in their homes with a view to introducing preventive measures; and (b) for seniors who are not open to community engagement, what specific measures will be taken to identify when a senior living alone may have passed away and check on them, such as visiting the unit when they have defaulted on rent and utilities payments.
- *12. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether there have been instances where the Ministry has prohibited the use of mattresses in migrant worker dormitories; (b) if so, what are the reasons for the prohibition; and (c) how long are the prohibitions for.
- *13. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for National Development when does the Government expect to conclude its review of the Community Advisory Panel on Neighbourhood Noise's recommendation for a quantitative noise threshold and introduce legislation to respond and enforce against unacceptable neighbourhood noise levels.
- *14. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Transport with the growing vulnerability of mobile devices and data being compromised via public charging stations and Wi-Fi access points (a) whether there have been any recorded attempts to breach such stations and points at our public transport nodes; (b) what measures are in place to secure these nodes to reduce the risk of compromise for users; and (c) whether the Ministry will implement public education measures, such as billboards at MRT stations, to remind users to take precautions to protect their devices and data.
- *15. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether all Government-issued mobile devices used by civil servants and political office holders are pre-installed with device management application (DMA) and antivirus software; (b) if so, how does the Smart Nation Digital Government Group (SNDGG) ensure that sensitive information passing through these devices does not fall into the wrong hands; and (c) if not, how does SNDGG ensure that only approved apps are downloaded, only appropriate websites are accessed and only malware-free email attachments are opened on these devices.

- *16. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information considering the advances in artificial intelligence (AI) with platforms such as ChatGPT and the GPT-4 architecture, what attention is being given to promoting and ensuring (i) the development of ethical AI which responds in a manner consistent with human values and (ii) maintenance of ethical standards in the development, dataset training and deployment of AI.
- *17. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether an elaboration of the enhanced preventive measures undertaken by SMRT in response to the recent spike in breakdowns on the North-South and East-West Lines (NSEWL) can be provided; and (b) whether these measures should be incorporated into the Maintenance Performance Standards set out under the rail licence for the NSEWL to improve standards.
- *18. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) how many diploma students does MAS seek to place in apprenticeship under the Polytechnic Talent for Finance Scheme; and (b) whether MAS will also seek to expand such schemes to the Institutes of Technical Education.
- *19. **Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the total amount of donations raised by the Rare Disease Fund (RDF) in 2022; (b) what is the respective breakdown of this donation by donor type, namely philanthropic foundations, companies, Government, NGOs, individuals and others; and (c) whether the Government will consider rolling out a strategy to obtain RDF donations from individuals through public communications, to complement the current approaches to raising donations.
- *20. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the justification for employers to only accept medical certificates issued by polyclinics; and (b) whether there are any guidelines issued to employers on limiting the imposition of such a requirement.
- *21. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Transport what is the number of fatalities and injuries from falls onto LRT tracks in the past 10 years.
- *22. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Prime Minister for each year since 2020 (a) what is the total inflow of foreign funds into Singapore through family offices, broken down by each source country; and (b) whether the Government will provide an assessment on the impact of the inflow of such foreign funds on (i) Singapore's Official Foreign Reserves position (ii) the private property market and (iii) inflation.
- *23. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Prime Minister in each of the past five years to date, what is the value of wealth inflows into Singapore (i) on aggregate and (ii) as broken down by the top 10 source countries.
- *24. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Prime Minister with regard to single family offices applying for tax incentive schemes since April 2022 and are required to allocate at least 10% or S\$10 million of their assets, whichever is lower, to local investments, what is the total assets that have been invested locally into (i) equities listed on Singapore exchanges (ii) private equity investments in unlisted Singapore-incorporated companies and (iii) qualifying debt securities.
- *25. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower for each year in the past five years, how many dormitory operators have been found to have food storage and drop-off points that fall short of the Ministry's expectations in the course of regular inspections.
- *26. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether there are any guidelines or restrictions on the number of birds that may be kept in a HDB flat.

- *27. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is LTA's assessment of the quality of the Thomson-East Coast Line (TEL) rolling stock and signalling system thus far; and (b) whether there has been any or any significant faults which have been detected on the rolling stock or the signalling system on the TEL which did not result in service disruptions.
- *28. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Transport for growing towns like Punggol where the demand on the LRT system can be very busy during peak times and drop drastically during non-peak times, whether the Ministry will consider supplementing the LRT system with more frequent bus services in the interim, if it is not yet feasible to bring in additional LRT train sets.
- *29. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Health what are the specific operational guidelines that are not eligibility criteria, including income thresholds and the number of recipients per household, provided by the Ministry to the MediFund committees as they consider requests for assistance.
- *30. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry tracks the number of work permit holders who are asked to work on rest days and are paid a (i) double and (ii) single rate of pay respectively; (b) in each of the last three years, how many complaints has the Ministry received about workers being paid a single rate of pay contrary to the requirements of the Employment Act 1968; and (c) how many of such complaints have resulted in enforcement or punitive action.
- *31. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth whether a more simplified busking audition can be implemented for buskers who are renewing their busking cards as compared to fresh applicants.
- *32. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether civil servants and political office holders are permitted to communicate on official matters using their personal mobile devices which are not issued and managed by the Government; and (b) if so, how data security and official secrets on these personal mobile devices are managed.
- *33. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether NEA has conducted any external checks to audit the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) processes for E-waste management that was introduced in July 2021.
- *34. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in light of the accident on 16 April 2023 along Upper Thomson Road involving two groups of cyclists, leading to the hospitalisation of one cyclist who fell (a) whether the Traffic Police will be taking any further measures to encourage (i) cyclists cycling in groups to adhere to current rules or safety requirements and (ii) all cyclists and cycling groups to give sufficient space when overtaking each other, so as to enhance cyclists' safety; and (b) if so, what are such new measures.
- *35. **Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what are the processes used to determine whether underground water pipes are leaking, in cases where water appearing above ground is unlikely due to other causes; (b) what is the error rate for such checks; and (c) whether more accurate processes can be deployed upon appeal in specific cases, where there is a suspected error in the detection of a leaking underground water pipe.

- *36. Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) what are the considerations behind the decision to insure deposits in local member banks at the amount of \$75,000 under the Deposit Insurance Scheme, compared to higher amounts in other jurisdictions; and (b) whether this limit will be reviewed in light of higher per capita incomes.

* 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 Social and Family Development:**
Women's Charter (Family Violence and Other Matters) (Amendment) Bill
- 2. Minister for National Development:**
Building and Related Works (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill

Motion for Leave to Bring in Bill by Private Member

- 1.** Seah Kian Peng (Marine Parade):
Mr Murali Pillai (Bukit Batok):
Ms Tin Pei Ling (MacPherson):

MAINTENANCE OF PARENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL: That leave be given to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the Maintenance of Parents Act 1995".

ORDERS OF THE DAY

- 1.** Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 12/2023] – (Second Minister for Home Affairs).
Resumption of Debate on Question (8 May 2023)
“That the Bill be now read a second time.”. – (Second Minister for Home Affairs).
- 2.** Computer Misuse (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 13/2023] – (Second Minister for Home Affairs) – Second Reading.
- 3.** Financial Services and Markets (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 11/2023] – (Prime Minister) – Second Reading.

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4. Companies, Business Trusts and Other Bodies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill [Bill No. 14/2023] – (Second Minister for Finance) – Second Reading.
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NOTICE OF MOTION

1. **Dr Tan Yia Swam (Nominated Member)**
Mr Abdul Samad (Nominated Member)
Dr Shahira Abdullah (Nominated Member):

SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE: That this House commits to supporting healthcare beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and the whole-of-Government efforts for consistent and sustainable support.

MEMORANDUM

Matter proposed to be raised on the Motion for the Adjournment (SO 2(8)(b)).

Ms Ng Ling Ling : Enhancing end of life with choices and dignity.
(Ang Mo Kio)

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Prime Minister for each year since 2000, what is the breakdown of non-residents in Singapore by (i) age (ii) employment status (iii) professions and (iv) income.
2. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether the Government will provide fertility leave to public servants; (b) if so, what is the implementation timeframe; and (c) if not, why not.
3. **Mr Don Wee:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether the same stringent regulatory standards will apply to external asset managers as currently required of banks, for the opening of bank accounts; and (b) what is the risk of regulatory arbitrage by external asset managers occurring.
4. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether the Family Office Development Team tracks the amount of contributions which family offices contribute to philanthropic activities each year; (b) if so, what is the total amount of contributions in each of the past five years; and (c) whether annual contributions to philanthropic activities in Singapore can be included in the criteria for family offices, together with clear and specific conditions.
5. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Prime Minister what is the (i) lowest (ii) median and (iii) highest monthly pension currently paid to retired civil servants under Government pension schemes.
6. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) how does the Public Service intend to leverage new artificial intelligence technologies such as ChatGPT in e-Government services; and (b) whether such tools will augment and replace existing chatbot services to provide a better user experience for citizens.

7. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) how regularly are rules to safeguard against over-indebtedness reviewed; (b) when has the last review been conducted; and (c) whether there is a need to review such rules given economic headwinds and the recent rise in credit card rollover balance.
8. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs what is the ASEAN leadership intending to do in light of continued and increasing violence and human rights violations in Myanmar.
9. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether there have been any developments on a potential third land link between Singapore and Johor Bahru.
10. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what plans does the Traffic Police have to raise awareness among cyclists of the relevant traffic rules such as the Highway Code and guidelines for on-road cycling groups including those pertaining to keeping a safe distance between riding groups as recommended by the Active Mobility Advisory Panel on 1 October 2021.
11. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the reasoning behind the choice to install dedicated charging stations for electric vehicles in HDB multi-storey car parks, instead of alternatives such as radio frequency identification-controlled power points; and (b) whether dedicated charging stations are the most attractive solution from a cost-benefit perspective.
12. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the Active Mobility Advisory Panel's (AMAP) recommendation on 1 October 2021 which strongly encourages cyclists to take up third-party liability insurance to aid compensation for victims that may be involved in accidents (a) whether LTA tracks the number of cyclists who have taken up such insurance since AMAP's recommendation; and (b) what are the steps that LTA is taking to encourage more cyclists who are using public roads to take up third-party liability insurance.
13. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the Government's announcement that 600,000 Public Transport Vouchers worth \$30 each will be made available (a) what is the number of households that have collected the PTVs by continuing to meet the eligibility criteria, by registration or by appeal; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider disbursing PTVs of less than \$30 to applicants with household income per person of more than \$1,600 but less than \$2,000, so as to cushion increased transport costs.
14. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Transport as of the first quarter of 2023 (a) how many public hire vehicles and taxis are fully electric; and (b) whether there are any targets to increase the percentage of such vehicles to be fully electric.
15. **Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether NEA will consider installing anti-slip flooring and having more handrails in NEA hawker centres or coffee shops where there is some exposure to rainfall.
16. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what is the nationwide collection rate for the Bloobox, an initiative under the Recycle Right campaign, as of 30 April 2023; b) whether there has been improvement in the recycling rates since the launch of the campaign; and c) whether there are plans to push for increased usage of the Bloobox going forward.

17. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what proportion of primary and secondary school students learning the Tamil language attend lessons at the Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre or other regional centres; (b) what is the median travelling time for such students to attend Tamil language lessons; and (c) what measures are being taken to reduce the need for such students to travel and attend Tamil language lessons.
18. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) for each month since January 2022, what percentage of hospital admissions are elective admissions of Singaporean and foreign patients respectively; and (b) what are the policies relating to deferring elective admissions when hospital bed occupancy rates exceed 85%.
19. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the current penetration rate of the Eldercare Centre (EC) service model among senior residents; and (b) what proportion of seniors living alone are being cared for by the combined network of ECs and Silver Generation Offices.
20. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Health in light of the huge demand for diabetes medication Ozempic and Wegovy in the United States driven by weight loss trends on social media (a) what are the steps taken to ensure that diabetic patients in Singapore have sufficient stocks and that such medications are not purchased other than for their prescribed medical use; and (b) whether the Ministry tracks the latest social media trends to anticipate any demands on medications.
21. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry tracks the number of heat-related illnesses in each year; (b) if so, whether there has been an increase in heat-related illnesses and injuries over the past three months; and (c) whether the Ministry has plans to raise public awareness on the prevention of heat-related illnesses.
22. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for National Development in the year-to-date and in each year over the past five years, how many renovation contractors have been (i) penalised for the improper disposal of renovation debris on common property in HDB estates and (ii) barred from carrying out new renovation works in HDB flats respectively.
23. **Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Government makes efforts to facilitate the relocation of stray cats when redeveloping areas with sizeable stray cat populations such as Turf City.
24. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) whether public and private organisations are liable for losses suffered by consumers and businesses as a result of disruptions to their digital services; and (b) if not, whether the Government will consider taking steps to protect consumers and businesses from losses due to such disruptions to digital services or impose minimum service standards on service providers.
25. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth what is the rationale for ending the Raikan Cahaya Ramadan 2023 bazaar at Kampong Glam on 16 April 2023, almost one week before Hari Raya Puasa.
26. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth whether the Ministry will consider constructing sensory rooms, which are specially designed rooms that combine a range of stimuli to help individuals develop and engage their senses, within Government-owned sports and cultural facilities.

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27. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower for each year in the past two years, how many companies have adopted the Tripartite Standard on Work-Life Harmony.
28. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what are the causes of long-term unemployment over the last five years; and (b) what initiatives have been successful in reducing long-term unemployment.
29. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what are the basic competencies and qualifications required of workers under the Household Services Scheme (HSS) who are eligible to provide eldercare services; (b) whether there are plans to expand the scope of HSS to include caring services for special-needs children and adults; and (b) how will the Ministry ensure the availability of timely and adequate training courses for these workers.
30. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in each of the last five years (a) how many workplace inspections have been carried out to ensure that adequate safety measures are taken to prevent heat injuries; (b) how many employers have been found to have been in breach of the safety measures; and (c) how many of such employers have been subjected to punitive action.
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