

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

FIRST SESSION

ORDER PAPER

MONDAY, 4 APRIL 2022

No. 60

1.30 pm

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for Finance with regard to the spike in pump fuel prices attributable to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the implementation of the carbon tax system and the push towards adoption of electric vehicles, whether the Ministry will be prepared to reduce or provide rebates to the petrol duty imposed on motorists or provide road tax rebates to motorists in the short-, mid- or long-term.
- *2. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Finance whether the Government will consider providing all households with ad hoc monthly utility rebates to cushion the inflationary pressure arising from increasing oil prices and supply chain disruptions.
- *3. **Ms Mariam Jaafar:** To ask the Minister for Finance in light of the sharp rise in petrol prices, whether the Government will consider a temporary reduction in the petrol excise taxes.
- *4. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Finance (a) what intervention measures will the Ministry be prepared to take if oil prices continue to spiral as a result of a prolonged Russia-Ukraine crisis; and (b) whether the Government will look into temporarily lowering the petrol duty to keep the cost of public transport and other services with a heavy reliance on transport affordable for lower-income groups.
- *5. **Mr Xie Yao Quan:** To ask the Minister for Finance whether the Government will consider a temporary cut in excise duties for diesel products to mitigate inflation.

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- *6. **Mr Xie Yao Quan:** To ask the Minister for Finance in the event of global stagflation, what monetary and fiscal measures will the Government adopt to help (i) businesses, especially SMEs and (ii) low and middle-income Singaporeans.
- *7. **Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui:** To ask the Minister for Finance what are the potential measures, in the form of reduced petrol duties or road tax rebates, that the Ministry will consider to assist commercial vehicle owners and private hire vehicle owners in helping to cushion the sharp rise in petrol prices amidst ongoing volatility.
- *8. **Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Minister for Finance in the light of the persistent high inflation rate in recent months, whether the Ministry will consider (i) releasing the \$100 CDC voucher to each Singapore household by early second quarter of 2022 and (ii) giving a second round of CDC vouchers in 2022 to better assist Singaporeans.
- *9. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Finance (a) in the last five years, what is the annual amount of excise duties derived from petrol and diesel sold to end consumers; and (b) whether the Government can reduce excise duties for intermediate grade petrol and diesel in view of high fuel prices today.
- *10. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Finance given the further upward costs pressure as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict (a) whether the Government will consider revising the Households Support Package that was announced in Budget 2022; (b) what are the timelines for the payouts from the various Government packages to support families; and (c) whether the timelines of these payouts can be adjusted in view of the escalating inflationary environment.
- *11. **Ms Carrie Tan:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Committee Against Profiteering (CAP) has considered the extent of increases to food prices that is reasonable to expect in view of the cost of gas and energy, and in tandem with the Progressive Wage Model; (b) if so, what is the extent; and (c) whether the CAP will be providing a set of guidelines for consumers on when is it appropriate to report opportunistic price hikes by merchants on everyday items, especially those at coffeeshops and hawker stalls.

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- *12. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Government has fuel reserves, futures or other instruments to hedge against a sudden and significant spike in fuel prices; (b) how does the Government intend to help local transport operators mitigate the effects of such spikes in fuel prices, especially SMEs that are unable to shift the cost burden to their customers; and (c) how will Singapore manage these knock-on effects on our supply chains and our reputation as a logistics hub.
- *13. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Ministry monitors the stall rental and utilities rates imposed by food court and coffee shop operators; (b) if so, how many food court and coffee shop operators have raised charges for stall rental or utilities since the beginning of this year; (c) what is the range of price increases; (d) how can stall operators lodge a complaint against the food court and coffee shop operators for unjustified price increases; and (e) how will the Ministry investigate these complaints.
- *14. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Government has conducted studies to consider the impact of the insolvency of previous electricity retailers on the cost of living for Singaporeans; and (b) if so, whether the Ministry will release the findings of such studies.
- *15. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Ministry is tracking the severity of shrinkflation and how widespread the practice is; and (b) whether this will be one of the business practices considered by the Committee Against Profiteering.
- *16. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for Law whether he can provide an update on the Government's study to enhance criminal legal aid and, in particular, to consider the feasibility of setting up a Public Defender's Office.
- *17. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Prime Minister in view of the rising global interest rate outlook (a) what are the risks to the household debt situation in Singapore; (b) what is the proportion of mortgages accounting for household debt over the past five years; and (c) what measures are in place to reduce the build-up of highly leveraged households and the associated vulnerabilities.
- *18. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Prime Minister in view of the short-term interest rates raised by the US Federal Reserve (a) what is the impact on mortgage rates in Singapore; (b) whether there has been an increase in mortgage delinquency; and (c) what are the plans to educate younger and first-time home buyers on expected higher borrowing costs.

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- *19. Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Health given that the COVID-19 Omicron variant virus wave has passed its peak (a) whether the Government will review the overall safe management measures; (b) whether the SafeEntry measure still serve its purpose; and (c) whether the one-metre distance requirement at eating places can be relaxed.
- *20. Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the overall cost to businesses to maintain Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures just to cater to unvaccinated residents; and (b) whether requiring unvaccinated residents to bear their own medical costs will be sufficient deterrence to residents who choose not to be vaccinated.
- *21. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the Ministry will consider to streamline the Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) for coffeeshops and canteens to simplify these measures; (b) how many proposals have been received by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) on the adoption of the new VDS; (c) how long will SFA take to approve the proposals; and (d) how frequently will SFA conduct checks for compliance at approved premises.
- *22. Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Ministry will consider (i) easing the vaccination-differentiated safe management measures (VDS) for dining-in at coffee shops and industrial canteens and (ii) providing financial subsidies to help coffee shops and industrial canteens with compliance costs related to VDS.
- *23. Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs how the Government is and will be engaging different groups when considering the best way forward on section 377A of the Penal Code.
- *24. Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry in light of the Energy Market Authority's Energy 2050 Committee Report (a) how will Singapore prepare itself to generate 10% of the country's energy needs using nuclear energy in a safe and reliable manner by 2050; and (b) what steps will Singapore take to assure our neighbours that the use of nuclear energy in Singapore will not impact the environment unfavourably with sufficient safeguards.
- *25. Ms Poh Li San:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry since the Government's pre-feasibility study on nuclear technologies in 2012, what are the technological improvements made in this area that now render the technologies potentially fit and safe for deployment, especially given the high population density in Singapore.

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- *26. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what are the prospects of next-generation technologies being used to tap on geothermal energy and nuclear energy for Singapore's future energy supply mix; and (b) what are the challenges that need to be overcome.
- *27. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry is looking into new strategies to encourage younger Singaporeans to take up trade jobs such as licensed electricians and plumbers, amongst others; and (b) whether it is the Ministry's assessment that a larger Singapore core can be built up in such jobs in the short- to medium-term.
- *28. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in light of the recent sword and knife-related crimes (a) what are the steps and measures taken to protect the public in terms of awareness and emergency preparedness; and (b) whether there can be a blanket ban for the possession of a knife, razor or other sharp objects in any schools, public or commercial premises.
- *29. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether there are legislative measures to help the Police target and guide individuals, who are at risk of being drawn into knife-related crimes due to certain mental or other conditions, to set them on a positive path similar to the recent Knife Crime Prevention Orders piloted in the UK.
- *30. **Mr Mohd Fahmi Bin Aliman:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what is the current adoption rate of outcome-based contracting (OBC) for public sector security service buyers; (b) whether the Ministry tracks the adoption rate for private sector security service buyers; (c) whether these adoption rates have met the Ministry's targets; and (d) what is the plan to further increase the adoption rate of OBC in the public and private sectors.
- *31. **Mr Mohd Fahmi Bin Aliman:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the Ministry is promoting the adoption of outcome-based contracting for the procurement of security services by managing agents appointed by annually-elected MCST Councils, given that short contracting periods remain a key impediment to the adoption of technologically-enabled security solutions at private residential estates; and (b) if so, what more can be done to further promote this.
- *32. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in view of the disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Singapore's ageing population (a) whether there is a need to review the projected number of migrant domestic workers (MDWs) for the next 10 years; and (b) what are the lessons learnt in terms of managing the supply of MDWs.

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- *33. Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what is the approach taken by schools regarding students diagnosed with COVID-19 through home Antigen Rapid Tests (ART) prior to a school weighted assessment or school examination; and (b) whether there has been a policy to require such ART-positive students to produce a doctor's medical certificate in order to have a valid reason for being absent from the weighted assessment or school examination.
- *34. Ms Poh Li San:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether there is a deadline for all designated smoking corners to be removed from hawker centres and other food establishments; and (b) if not, whether there are plans to enclose these areas and retrofit them with special air filters.
- *35. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) why was the anti-SMS spoofing registry shut just about over a month after government agencies announced their intent to join the registry; (b) whether adequate time was given for the agencies to assess the new decision; (c) what are the ways by which the full-fledged Singapore SMS SenderID Registry will be superior; (d) how will it put us in line with international practices; and (e) what is the timeline for banks, government agencies and interested organisations to be fully onboarded.
- *36. Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether there has been an increase in the number of reports of elder abuse and neglect over the COVID-19 pandemic period; and (b) what are the additional measures and resources that the Ministry has put in place to safeguard the safety and wellness of such vulnerable seniors.
- *37. Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the total number of applicants for the SGUnited Mid-Career Pathways Programme in 2020 and 2021; (b) among these, how many (i) have been successful in their application and (ii) found a permanent job after taking part in the programme; and (c) what is their median and average training allowance.
- *38. Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what data has the Ministry obtained regarding the quantitative impact on earnings faced by hawkers due to inflation in electricity and ingredient prices and restrictions on dining-in; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider additional support measures to cushion the impact on (i) hawkers and (ii) low-income groups who rely on affordable hawker food.

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- *39. **Ms Mariam Jaafar:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Government can temporarily reduce public transportation fares or make public transport vouchers available to a wider segment of the population to encourage more to switch to public transportation amid the spike in petrol prices.
- *40. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) how has the recent increase in energy and fuel prices affected public transport costs; and (b) whether there are any steps being taken to mitigate the impact of these costs from being passed down to commuters if these prices remain persistently high.
- *41. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Prime Minister as "Buy Now Pay Later" (BNPL) schemes have rapidly gained traction in the past year (a) what is the total value of BNPL transactions in Singapore in 2021; (b) whether there are plans for BNPL companies and schemes to be regulated; and (c) whether BNPL schemes have disproportionately affected younger consumers in being over leveraged.
- *42. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what is the time taken from the start of the school year before a primary one student receives his or her student concession card; and (b) whether the Ministry can shorten the time taken especially for lower income students to lighten the financial burden on their families.
- *43. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development in light of rising inflation for daily necessities, whether there will be a reassessment by the Social Service Offices of the amount of ComCare payouts and a more expeditious review of the eligibility criteria.
- *44. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether there has been an increase in the rejection of renewals for the various Social Service Office support over the last 24 months; and (b) if so, what were the top three reasons for these rejections.
- *45. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry will review the maximum annual subsidy cap under the Seniors Mobility and Enabling Fund (SMF) set up in 2013 to support patients from low income backgrounds who need access to consumables such as adult milk feed and adult diapers; and (b) whether the minimum age criterion of 60 years old for patients to tap on SMF may be removed.

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- *46. Ms Mariam Jaafar:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the proportion and number of people who face persistent symptoms after recovering from COVID-19 during the Omicron virus wave as compared to the earlier proportion reported for the Delta virus wave; (b) whether guidelines can be issued to employers and schools on helping those facing these symptoms to better cope with returning to work or school; and (c) whether figures on the number of people living with these persistent symptoms can be regularly collected.
- *47. Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry has monitored the incidence of long COVID; (b) whether there has been a difference in long COVID risk across fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated patients based on the Singapore experience; and (c) what support is available for persons who are suffering from long COVID or who may be concerned that they have long COVID.
- *48. Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Health in view of the large number of COVID-19 cases who have since recovered from an acute infection (a) whether the Ministry will publish its study on the prevalence and effects of long COVID in Singapore; and (b) whether the Ministry will offer dedicated long COVID clinics or services that are equipped to address specific problems faced by this group of patients.
- *49. Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what are the tracking mechanisms in place to detect people suffering from long COVID; (b) whether there has been any updated study or statistics after August 2021 showing the number of people who have long COVID; (c) whether the ratio of people with long COVID over those who have no symptoms after their initial recovery from COVID-19 has increased since August 2021; and (d) what are the procedures in place to support care and recovery from long COVID.
- *50. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Government can allow private drivers and motorcycle riders from Singapore to enter Malaysia and return to Singapore following Malaysia's border reopening on 1 April 2022, or otherwise to expand such private commute under the Vaccinated Travel Lane (Land) scheme.
- *51. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry has conducted local studies on the impact of allowing working from home in (i) reducing gender inequality (ii) reducing gender stereotypes (iii) reducing gender wage gap and (iv) increasing the female labour force participation rate respectively; (b) if so, what are the results of the respective studies; and (c) if not, whether the Ministry intends to do so.

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- *52. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether the Police will take action against contractors who take deposits for renovation works without any intent to carry out such works.
- *53. **Mr Raj Joshua Thomas:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the upcoming legislation enshrining the guidelines of the Tripartite Alliance for Fair and Progressive Employment Practices will include obligations on buyers of outsourced services to prevent them from including clauses in their service agreements that result in unfair or discriminatory working conditions for outsourced workers.
- *54. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the status of the renewal and enhancement work scheduled for the North East Line which was announced in December 2018; and (b) whether there will be expected delays to the renewal due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *55. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Finance how much will the effective corporate tax rate have to be raised in order to raise the same revenue as a two per cent hike in GST.
- *56. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Finance what is the amount of tax revenue that can be raised from a 4%, 6% and 8% point rise in the personal income tax rate for those whose assessable incomes are within the top 10% income bracket in 2019.
- *57. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) what is being done to increase public education and enhance awareness of Singapore's national interests with regard to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Singapore's relations with the US and China; and (b) whether the Ministry has considered (i) pushing out factual information on the situation through messaging apps and social media and (ii) providing information about independent fact-checking websites which the public can use to counter misinformation.
- *58. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Education to what extent are teachers engaging students to discuss with them, in age-appropriate ways, the positions Singapore has taken on complex foreign policy and security issues like the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Singapore's relations with the US and China and hostile information campaigns targeted at Singapore's population.

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- *59. Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Health with regard to patients with mental health issues and illnesses (a) how is the Ministry ensuring and helping them to adhere to their medical treatments and therapies while they are rehabilitating at home; and (b) how are these patients supported in their efforts to integrate back into the community.
- *60. Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Health whether there are any psychological support or counselling that is provided to the public witnesses who are traumatised by acts of violence, such as those in the recent cases involving knife- and sword-wielding perpetrators.
- *61. Dr Shahira Abdullah:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the average treatment cost of seeking help for mental health issues in a public health institution per year; and (b) whether the use of MediSave for mental health treatment under the Chronic Disease Management Programme can be extended to include more private clinics given the increase in the need for mental health services.
- *62. Mr Abdul Samad:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether he can provide an update on (i) the number of companies that successfully applied for the Capability Transfer Programme since it was first introduced and (ii) its assessment of the programme's effectiveness in terms of helping companies, associations and professional bodies to develop and acquire new capabilities for their Singaporean workforce.
- *63. Mr Abdul Samad:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the number of organisations that are successful in applying for the Senior Worker Early Adopter Grant (SW EAG) and the Part-time Re-employment Grant (PTRG) since they were introduced; and (b) whether there is any particular trend, in terms of types of industry and occupation, where the number of successful applicants of these grants is higher than the national average.
- *64. Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Finance (a) whether the breakdown of \$100 billion COVID-19 related expenditure spent over the past two years mentioned in the Minister for Finance's budget speech on 18 February 2022 is already publicly available; (b) whether the breakdown can be provided if not previously available; and (c) whether the object classes pertaining to the COVID-19 expenditure can be made available to the public.
- *65. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Finance whether a single unwed mother who gets married to the father of their child and subsequently gets a divorce, will be able to qualify for the Parenthood Tax Rebate and the Working Mother's Child Relief.

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- *66. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Finance what is the additional cost of implementing a multi-tiered GST that will allow for the exemption of basic necessities.
- *67. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Finance (a) how many taxpayers have assessable income of more than \$320,000 in 2019; and (b) what is the total assessable income and total taxes paid by them in 2019.
- *68. **Mr Raj Joshua Thomas:** To ask the Minister for Finance whether the Government, as one of the largest buyers of security services, will consider changing the working hours for security officers in all Government tenders from the current 12-hour shifts to 8- to 10-hour shifts, so as to improve the work-life harmony and working conditions of officers deployed at Government sites.
- *69. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what safeguards are in place to protect members of the public, particularly children and women, from recalcitrant sex offenders; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider lifelong counselling and monitoring of these offenders.
- *70. **Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Ministry will consider reviewing and allowing flexibility on the internal protocols for requests of camera deployments on a case-by-case basis to address high-rise littering in a timely manner.
- *71. **Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs since the introduction of TraceTogether (a) how many criminal investigations have TraceTogether data been used for; (b) what categories under the Seventh Schedule of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act do these investigations come under; and (c) whether the TraceTogether data has inadvertently been used for any criminal investigations that do not come under the Seventh Schedule.
- *72. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how many repeat cases of non-compliance of Safe Management Measures have been taken to task since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; and (b) whether harsher penalties are being considered for recalcitrant offenders.
- *73. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Health whether the Government is considering COVID-19 booster shot requirements for international travellers entering Singapore to be considered as fully vaccinated, in line with domestic vaccination-differentiated safe management measures.

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- *74. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Ministry has data on the mean and median number of lactation rooms in (i) all buildings and business parks with a Gross Floor Area (GFA) of 10,000 square metres or more and (ii) Government buildings with a GFA of 10,000 square metres or more; and (b) if these data are not available, whether the Ministry will start collecting them.
- *75. Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) over the past 10 years, how many cases of injury and death by electrocution have taken place in HDB flats; (b) what proportion of these incidents has involved an electrical circuit that has been protected and unprotected by the residual current circuit breaker (RCCB) respectively; (c) how many HDB flats currently do not have RCCB protection covering the entire unit; and (d) what is being done to improve electrical safety for residents.
- *76. Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the projected average ratio of electric vehicle (EV) charging points to resident cars in every HDB carpark in the next three years; (b) how will the Ministry increase this ratio to accommodate more EV users; and (c) how widely available will the options for daytime quick charge be.
- *77. Mr Raj Joshua Thomas:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how many tailgating incidents have been prosecuted in the past three years; and (b) whether there are any measures that have been taken to deter tailgating incidents on roads.
- *78. Ms Carrie Tan:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) of the 0.33% disbursed from the ElderCare Fund in 2020 that was spent on home care services for FY 2018 as reported in the Elderly Care Endowment Scheme 2020/2021 Annual Report, what are the services which this spending is used on; (b) what are the reasons for this low quantum; and (c) whether the Government will consider tapping on the ElderCare Fund to support informal caregivers with a stipend, in view that they do provide home care to infirmed elderly.
- *79. Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Health what are the considerations that currently inhibit the extension of the usage of MediSave for (i) comprehensive health screenings and (ii) other preventative health procedures such as vaccinations that are not under the National Adult Immunisation Schedule or smoking cessation programmes.

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- *80. Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how will the Ministry determine which polyclinics and Public Health Preparedness Clinics prescribe Paxlovid for COVID-19 treatment; (b) when is the roll-out expected to be completed; and (c) whether the Ministry will cover the cost of Paxlovid for unvaccinated persons who are not medically-exempted from COVID-19 vaccination.
- *81. Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Health whether there are plans to allow for the self-declaration of COVID-19 positive status, with appropriate penalties for false declarations, as a means of relieving the burden on general practitioners (GPs) who are currently facing a surge of patients seeking verification of their COVID-19 positive status from the GPs in order to postpone their booster shots or to be absent from their workplace.
- *82. Dr Shahira Abdullah:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether there is a target waiting time for subsidised patients between their first and second specialist patient appointments at the public health institutions; (b) what is the current average waiting time for subsidised patients to be seen for their first and second specialist appointments in public health institutions; and (c) what are the measures taken to achieve the target waiting times given the increased patient backlog due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *83. Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for Health what are the current occupancy rates of public and private hospitals and their capacity to admit new inpatients.
- *84. Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what are the projections on the number of licensed nursing home beds needed for the next five years; and (b) what is the Government doing to meet these projections.
- *85. Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the new historic high motorcycle COE price in late February 2022 (a) what is the utilisation rate for temporary Certificates of Entitlement (TCOEs) for motorcycles secured after April 2021; and (b) of which, what is the breakdown of the TCOEs which were utilised by engine capacity of (i) 200 cc and below (ii) 201 cc to 400 cc and (iii) above 400 cc.
- *86. Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether there have been any hostile information campaigns targeted at Singapore residents since the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict; (b) if so, what is the nature of these campaigns; (c) whether the Government is aware of the likely sources of such campaigns; and (d) whether the Government is taking any action to counter them.

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- *87. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs how does the Government intend to respond to Singaporean key opinion leaders who express or transmit partly false information that can potentially undermine Singapore's foreign policy positions.

* 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.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- 1. Minister for Finance:**
- 2. Second Minister for Trade and Industry:**

Inflation and Business Costs.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Introduction of Government Bills

- 1. Prime Minister:**
- 2. Minister for Social and Family Development:**

Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Bill.

Adoption of Children Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NOTICE OF MOTION

(Those marked • are Orders of the Day)

- 1.** Extradition (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 10/2022] – (Minister for Law)
– Second Reading.
- 2.** Financial Services and Markets Bill [Bill No. 4/2022] – (Prime Minister)
– Second Reading.

3. Minister for Communications and Information:

SINGAPORE WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT: That this House endorses Paper Cmd. 15 of 2022 on "White Paper on Singapore Women's Development" as our Whole-of-Nation plan of action to collectively advance Singapore women's development to build a fairer and more inclusive society, where men and women partnering each other as equals can pursue their aspirations freely and to the fullest.

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QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Prime Minister in light of the financial sanctions that have been imposed against Russia (a) whether Singapore's regulation of cryptocurrencies and decentralised finance (DeFi) will prevent sanctioned individuals and companies from using non-traditional forms of finance to circumvent the sanctions; and (b) if not, whether MAS is looking at introducing or revising our regulation of cryptocurrencies and DeFi shortly.
2. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) how much of the Research Initiatives Grant under the Grant for Equity Market Singapore (GEMS) announced in 2019 to crowd-source initiatives to propel the development of Singapore's equity research ecosystem has been awarded; and (b) what are some of the notable initiatives that have been developed through the GEMS Research Initiatives Grant.
3. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Prime Minister for entities which are previously granted an exemption from holding a licence under the Payment Services Act (a) what is the breakdown in the number of companies for those (i) whose exemption ceased after the specified period (ii) those that are rejected by MAS and (iii) those which applications are withdrawn; and (b) what is the average length of time between the grant of exemption and eventual end of exemption.
4. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs how Singapore intends to approach the ongoing violence in Ukraine, pursuant to Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, customary international law and also UN General Assembly Resolution 68/262, to de-escalate the violence and ensure the safety of the civilian population.
5. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs how ASEAN intends to approach the ongoing violence in Ukraine, pursuant to Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, customary international law and also UN General Assembly Resolution 68/262, to de-escalate the violence and ensure the safety of the civilian population.

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6. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs how does Singapore intend to ensure the upholding of international law of which Russia is a party to, particularly the Geneva Conventions I, IV and Protocol I, as well as the Hague Convention of 1907, in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.
 7. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs what efforts are being made to allow negotiations to take place between Russia and Ukraine to de-escalate violence and halt the invasion.
 8. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs how international law will be upheld, particularly the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, even as Ukrainian refugees flee Ukraine.
 9. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how has the installation of speed cameras helped to improve the enforcement rate against speeding offences in the last two years; (b) whether the Ministry will consider expanding the criteria for deployment of speed cameras; and (c) where a road has been identified to be speed-prone and accident-prone, how do the Traffic Police and LTA work together for the deployment of speed cameras and road modifications.
 10. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs following the Court of Appeal's ruling on retaining section 377A of the Penal Code (a) what are the Government's indicators to monitor whether society is ready for its repeal; and (b) how are these indicators monitored.
 11. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs for the past five years, how many knife-related crimes including those involving the brandishing of swords, razors or similar items have been committed in (i) schools or educational institutions (ii) public, commercial or work premises and (iii) residential premises.
 12. **Mr Raj Joshua Thomas:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether the Ministry can provide any updates on the status of the investigation in respect of the driver who had threatened to run down the security officer outside Red Swastika School on 11 January 2022.
 13. **Mr Don Wee:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what measures are there to ensure that only qualified personnel install electrical wiring and appliances and residual current circuit breakers; (b) whether there are audits to check on the quality of the installation work; and (c) whether there are periodic inspections and audits of electrical wiring in all buildings, especially those over 20 years old.

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14. **Mr Sitoh Yih Pin:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Government expects the recent trend of sharp increases in energy prices to continue in the near future; and (b) what are the Government's plans on addressing this issue in terms of the rising cost for businesses and cost of living for Singaporeans.
 15. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what are the top 10 food items or ingredients that have increased in price since the Ukrainian-Russian conflict; (b) whether food stockpiles will be drawn upon amidst higher prices in recent months; and (c) what is the Ministry's long-term strategy to ensure basic food necessities remain affordable to all.
 16. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the prices of imported food commodities such as wheat, flour, and sugar, have risen in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict; (b) if so, by how much; and (c) what is being done to mitigate the rise in food prices which will be keenly felt by consumers.
 17. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) how many merchants have been included in the Community Development Council (CDC) Vouchers Scheme as a participant; (b) how many merchants have been approached in total; (c) whether there is a timeline for the CDC Ambassadors to approach all eligible shops for participation; and (d) whether any criteria have been taken into consideration for inclusion as a participant in the CDC Vouchers Scheme after the merchant has registered their interest.
 18. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the Land Transport Master Plan 2040 (a) whether there are any existing targets on the number of taxi and private-hire vehicles under the plan; (b) if so, how do the current numbers compare against these targets; and (c) whether the Government intends to intervene in the market, such as offering targeted assistance to these drivers to cope with the recent exceptional surge in fuel costs in ensuring that the numbers are on track in meeting the targets.
 19. **Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the Ministry's outlook on the impact of rising oil prices on private hire car drivers, cabbies and food delivery riders in the next few months; (b) what is the overall percentage increase in business costs for private hire car drivers in March 2022 compared to the start of the year; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider introducing support packages and nudge platform companies to implement support measures that alleviate the impact of rising oil prices on these drivers.

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20. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what are the most popular lorry models being sold in Singapore in the past five years; and (b) whether there are any previous engagements with the manufacturers of these lorry models on enhancing the safety of passengers on rear decks by strengthening the floor of the lorry to allow for seat belts to be installed.
21. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Ministry has data on how much money has been paid out by automotive insurers due to claims arising from lorry accidents over the past five years; (b) if so, what is the annual amount; and (c) whether the Ministry has engaged insurers to study the impact on whether insurance claims and premiums will fall if seat belts are made mandatory on the rear decks of lorries.
22. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) how many errant power-assisted bicycle and e-scooter riders are fined by the authorities in 2021; (b) whether there has been a decrease in the number of such errant riders since the implementation of the mandatory theory test; and (c) how will the Ministry ensure that all riders will undertake the mandatory theory test.
23. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment in view of the impending adoption of the new vehicle noise standards from next year onwards, whether there are plans to deploy noise measuring instruments together with speed cameras in areas where cars often speed.
24. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether glue traps for pests and rodents will be banned from use given the possibility of catching unintended targets after deployment.
25. **Dr Shahira Abdullah:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Ministry will consider phasing out the practice of glue traps to catch pests and introducing nature-based biocontrols to tackle the problem.
26. **Mr Don Wee:** To ask the Minister for Education what measures are there to prepare and assist teachers at the Institute of Technical Education so that they can support students with special needs such as dyslexia, autism and Down Syndrome.
27. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what are the strategies applied in schools to ensure that our children become discerning readers to spot signs of disinformation and online falsehoods; and (b) what is the age of the children for schools to start imparting this skill to them.

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28. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Education in the past six months, how many complaints have been received regarding Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) measures in primary schools, secondary schools, JCs and polytechnics respectively.
29. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Finance what studies has the Ministry conducted so far to examine how the costs of daily necessities and goods in Singapore will be impacted by recent global events such as rising commodity prices, rising global inflation, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic.
30. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Finance apart from the Assurance Package for the GST increase, what else will the Government be doing to assist needy Singaporeans to cope with the rising cost of daily necessities and goods which are non-GST related.
31. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development whether there are plans to implement the use of clear masks in preschool settings in respect of infants and toddlers who, in the process of language acquisition, may suffer delays due to an inability to observe the lip movement of teachers and adults.
32. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for Health under the changes recommended by the MediShield Life Council to be implemented in September 2022, whether cancer patients will have additional financial resources to draw on to cover the cost of cancer scans, beyond the current annual MediSave withdrawal limit of \$600.
33. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry will enable polyclinics to fill prescriptions made by private house-call doctors; and (b) if not, besides going to the hospital, what other more convenient options do patients have if pharmacies do not carry their prescription.
34. **Mr Don Wee:** To ask the Minister for Health regarding disability assessments for ElderShield payouts (a) under what conditions will the need for an assessment be waived for a claimant; and (b) whether the frequency of such assessments for very severe cases can be reduced.
35. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Termination of Pregnancy Regulations requiring mandatory counselling and a 48-hour time lapse thereafter before termination of a pregnancy under 24 weeks are applicable in cases where the termination of pregnancy is medically certified to be required due to the impossibility of survival of the unborn child; and (b) if so, whether the requirements can be reviewed so as to reduce the anguish caused to the parents.

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36. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) to date, what is the number of patients suffering from long COVID broken down by (i) duration (ii) demographic and (iii) vaccination status; and (b) whether the Ministry tracks the number of such patients who are adversely and severely affected in their ability to work, study, or carry out daily activities.
37. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Health in the last six months, what is the number of weeks that medical staff have been rostered for extra duties, broken down by (i) senior doctors (ii) junior doctors (iii) nursing staff and (iv) other allied healthcare professionals.
38. **Dr Shahira Abdullah:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether there has been an increase in the number of reported incidents of food-related anaphylaxis in children; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider subsidising the costs of EpiPens for low-income families as anaphylaxis can be fatal.
39. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information with regard to the recent data breach of a local retail website (a) what are the reasons for such incidents to occur despite previous repeated warnings by the authorities of such breaches; and (b) what are the measures which the Ministry will consider implementing to ensure that organisations secure their databases and to protect their customers' information.
40. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information how many households, broken down by the different categories of housing type, still have a landline telephone connection which is (i) an analogue line and (ii) connected via optical network terminal or other home digital line, respectively.
41. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information how long and how many rounds of negotiation took place between the Government and Singapore Press Holdings Limited (SPH) before the decision was made on the establishment of the SPH Media Trust.
42. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the household income ceiling set in 2019 for the Enhanced CPF Housing Grant for purchase of HDB resale flats by first-time buyers may be reviewed upwards to enhance housing options for young couples.
43. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether HDB monitors reported cases by HDB flat owners of 'water hammering' in the water pipes; (b) what steps are being taken to minimise such instances of 'water hammering' at these HDB blocks; and (c) whether HDB will issue requirements for plumbers to follow when installing water and sanitary fittings in HDB units to prevent such occurrences.

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44. **Miss Cheng Li Hui:** To ask the Minister for National Development in view of the latest round of property cooling measures (a) what is the number of residential units transacted in the first two months of 2022; (b) whether the measures have resulted in a significant drop in such transactions; and (c) whether the measures have achieved its policy intent so far.
45. **Miss Cheng Li Hui:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the CBD Incentive Scheme to help rejuvenate the CBD has been successful; (b) whether the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the rejuvenation of Singapore's city centre through the increase in conversion of office developments to mixed-use developments; (c) what is the proportion of mixed-use developments in the CBD; and (d) whether the COVID-19 pandemic and work-from-home trends have affected Singapore's urban development and, if so, how.
46. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the population of wild boars and monkeys have increased over the years; and (b) what are the actions taken by NParks to manage the increased sightings of wild boars and monkeys at residential areas.
47. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower with regard to registered companies in Singapore that did not hire work pass holders for the past five years (a) what is the number of such registered companies annually; and (b) what is the percentage of such registered companies annually.
48. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether any penalties will be imposed on employers for not providing their migrant domestic worker with a day off once a month when it becomes mandatory by the end of 2022; and (b) if so, what are the penalties.
49. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether there are any guidelines or regulations to guide employers who employ aged, pregnant or disabled employees, on allowing mandated breaks for them or to perform their duties or responsibilities while sitting down for periods of time.
50. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for Manpower how many employment pass holders earned more than S\$5,000 in 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively.
51. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for Manpower how many S-Pass holders earned more than S\$3,000 in 2019, 2020, and 2021 respectively.

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- 52. Mr Raj Joshua Thomas:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the Ministry can provide an update on any actions taken against the facility management firm of Hillview Heights condominium regarding the discriminatory clauses in a tender for security services that it had put out in September 2021.
- 53. Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the Government will consider mandating that delivery platforms (i) do not penalise or remove incentives for riders who choose not to work in the rain or other adverse weather and (ii) have in place transparent surcharge structures for deliveries during such periods.
- 54. Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower of the 52,000 unvaccinated employees as of 19 December 2021, how many of these individuals have ceased employment since (i) 1 January 2022 (ii) 1 February 2022 and (iii) 1 March 2022.
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PAPERS PRESENTED

2022		<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	492 Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Driving Licences) (Amendment) Rules 2022 16 March 2022
S. L.	493 Workplace Safety and Health (COVID-19 Safe Workplace) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2022	..... 18 March 2022
S. L.	494 Regulation of Imports and Exports (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 18 March 2022
S. L.	495 Income Tax (Exemption of Benefits Received in Connection with COVID-19 Events) Rules 2022	..... 22 March 2022
Pres. Co.	51 Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Amendment) Bill [Bill No 7/2022]	..... 23 March 2022
Pres. Co.	52 Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Gambling Control Bill [Bill No 6/2022]	..... 23 March 2022

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

<i>2022</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
Pres. Co. 53	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Singapore Bill [Bill No 5/2022]	..... 23 March 2022
S. L. 496	United Nations (Sanctions - Yemen) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 23 March 2022
S. L. 497	Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Vocational Licences and Conduct of Drivers, Conductors, Trishaw Riders and Passengers) (Amendment) Rules 2022	..... 23 March 2022
S. L. 498	COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2022	..... 28 March 2022
S. L. 499	COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Reopening - Control Order) Regulations 2022	..... 28 March 2022
S. L. 500	COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Foreign Employee Dormitories - Control Order) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 28 March 2022
Cmd. 14	White Paper on Singapore Women's Development <i>Note: Paper withdrawn on 29 March 2022</i>	..... 28 March 2022
S. L. 501	Planning (Development Charges) (Amendment) Rules 2022	..... 29 March 2022
S. L. 502	Air Navigation (101 - Unmanned Aircraft Operations) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 29 March 2022
Cmd. 15	White Paper on Singapore Women's Development	..... 29 March 2022
S. L. 503	Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Act 2021 (Commencement) Notification 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L. 504	Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Act 2021 (Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L. 505	Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

<i>2022</i>			<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	506	Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	507	Central Provident Fund (Investment Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	508	Central Provident Fund (Division of Fund-Related Assets in Matrimonial Proceedings) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	509	Central Provident Fund (MediSave Account Transfers) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	510	Central Provident Fund (Education Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	511	Central Provident Fund (Reserved Amount) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	512	Central Provident Fund (Lifelong Income Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	513	Central Provident Fund (Public Sector Employees) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	514	Central Provident Fund (Approved Housing Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	515	Central Provident Fund (Ministry of Defence Housing Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	516	Central Provident Fund (Non-Residential Properties Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022
S. L.	517	Central Provident Fund (Residential Properties Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	..... 31 March 2022

S. L.	518	Central Provident Fund (Approved HDB-HUDC Housing Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
S. L.	519	Central Provident Fund (Approved Middle-Income Housing Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
S. L.	520	Central Provident Fund (New Retirement Sum Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
S. L.	521	Central Provident Fund (Revised Retirement Sum Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
S. L.	522	Central Provident Fund (Retirement Sum Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
S. L.	523	Central Provident Fund (Retirement Sum Topping-Up Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
S. L.	524	Central Provident Fund (Topping-Up of Special Account) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
S. L.	525	Workplace Safety and Health (COVID-19 Safe Workplace) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
S. L.	526	COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
S. L.	527	COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Foreign Employee Dormitories - Control Order) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
S. L.	528	COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Reopening - Control Order) (Amendment) Regulations 2022	.....	31 March 2022
