FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

FIRST SESSION

ORDER PAPER

TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2022

No. 77 12 noon 1

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. Mr Yip Hon Weng: To ask the Minister for Health in light of the US research paper suggesting that COVID-19 reinfection is more dangerous (a) what is the mortality rate and serious complication rate of those in Singapore catching COVID-19 for a second or third time vis-a-vis a first-time infection; and (b) how does vaccination alter the mortality and severe illness rate in both groups.
- *2. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in the past three years, how many reports have been received from platform firms or platform gig workers regarding injuries suffered in the course of platform or gig work including (i) near-misses (ii) accidents without injury (iii) accidents with injury of any severity and (iv) accidents with injury serious enough to require medical help.
- *3. Mr Gan Thiam Poh: To ask the Minister for National Development how many spouses of the owners of HDB flats and executive condominium, who are registered as occupants and not joint owners of the flat, have bought and invested in another private property in their own name in each of the past five years.
- *4. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang: To ask the Minister for Education in each year for the past five years, what is the respective breakdown on the median and average ratio of full-time trained and untrained school counsellors to students in primary schools and secondary schools.

- *5. Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what is the (i) average (ii) longest and (iii) shortest time it takes for the Anti-Scam Centre (ASC) to investigate scam cases thus far; and (b) does the ASC provide guidance to individuals who experience frozen accounts to appeal to the courts under section 35(8) of the Criminal Procedure Code.
- *6. Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng: To ask the Minister for National Development whether a percentage of the HDB community care apartments to be launched for seniors can be allotted for suitable younger persons with disabilities so that they can live within the community.
- *7. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) how many consumers enjoy tax rebates under the Commercial Vehicle Emissions Scheme (CVES) since its implementation; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider delaying the stepdown in incentives announced on 15 November 2022 on adjustments to the CVES.
- *8. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song: To ask the Minister for Transport how many households currently own (i) one car (ii) two cars and (iii) three or more cars, including cars owned by different members of the same household.
- *9. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether there is any requirement for individuals signing an exclusive estate agency agreement to be formally advised of the option of signing a non-exclusive agreement, especially in situations where the individual is entering into a property transaction for the first time and may not be aware of the existence of non-exclusive agreements.
- *10. Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong: To ask the Prime Minister with the increased digitalisation of Government services (a) what are the measures to ensure the availability and resiliency of these systems; and (b) what alternatives are available to the public for continued access to critical services when there is a sustained system and service outage.
- *11. Dr Lim Wee Kiak: To ask the Minister for Health (a) in the past three years, how many incidences of IT system outage have occurred at local public healthcare institutions; (b) what measures are being taken to ensure that the national healthcare IT system will have adequate capacity for the planned system enhancements under Healthier SG; and (c) what helplines or support will be available to affected persons in case of an IT system outage or malfunction, especially for doctors and patients.

- *12. Miss Cheryl Chan Wei Ling: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the supply of certificates of entitlement will be a key determinant to accelerate transition to electric vehicles over the next few years; (b) whether high interest rates, supply chain issues and other costs will derail the plan of phasing out internal combustion engine vehicles by 2040; and (c) if so, what alternate plans will be considered to mitigate the impact.
- *13. Mr Murali Pillai: To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development with respect to households assisted with ComCare Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance (SMTA) that wish to have the support renewed (a) whether there is a difference in the review period for households assessed to require short-term assistance as compared to the review period for medium-term assistance under SMTA; and (b) what is the average review period for the purposes of assessing applications for renewal in both circumstances.
- *14. Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui: To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry with regard to the Enhanced Central Intermediary Scheme (a) what are the regulations or rules that protect the interests of sub-accounts who wish to recover excess solar generation power that flows back to the grid; and (b) what are the potential workarounds to resolve constraints faced by sub-accounts in receiving payments for exported solar electricity from the master account holder.
- *15. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry has plans to build taller and high-rise schools; (b) whether the Ministry has assessed the developmental importance in childhood and formative years of play, social interaction and friendship-building and the role of open unstructured spaces and unstructured interactions in child development; and (c) whether high-rise school buildings will affect this.
- *16. Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye: To ask the Minister for Manpower of the 558 firms penalised during the recent workplace safety enforcement operations between 15 August 2022 and 17 October 2022 (a) how many firms are repeat offenders who have received penalties for workplace safety infringements previously; and (b) what is being done to prevent repeated safety breaches from happening.
- *17. Mr Ang Wei Neng: To ask the Minister for National Development whether HDB is prepared to review the monthly household-income ceiling for prospective buyers of BTO flats and Executive Condominiums respectively, given the high inflation rate.

- *18. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether the Government has considered implementing windfall taxes on energy companies in light of record profits by oil majors; and (b) what are the considerations behind implementing or not implementing such a tax.
- *19. Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what actions can be taken against night business operators that persistently cause noise disamenity which badly affects residents in a neighbourhood.
- *20. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how many owners of HDB shophouses are currently not operating businesses in their shophouse and are renting out their shophouse; and (b) of these, how many are foreigners.
- *21. Mr Saktiandi Supaat: To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Government will roll out schemes to incentivise SMEs to pivot to renting electric vehicles for commercial use, in view of Singapore's Green Plan and climate ambitions.
- *22. **Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether HDB will consider converting underutilised multi-storey carparks to be used for bicycle parking spaces; and (b) what other common areas can be converted to provide for more bicycle parking spaces.
- *23. Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim: To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry will consider reducing the hurdle rate for experienced tertiary education providers, such as university lecturers and professors, to acquire SkillsFuture accreditation.
- *24. Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim: To ask the Minister for National Development in respect of applications for HDB BTO flats, what are the steps that HDB takes to continually streamline and improve the online application experience for users, including real-time information on the number of applications submitted, and subsidies or grants available to a specific user.
- *25. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang: To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) in the past five years, what is the annual average and median lengths of time that children remain in (i) places of safety and (ii) the Singapore Boys' Home or Singapore Girls' Home; and (b) if the data is not available, whether there is an increasing or decreasing trend in the average and median lengths of time that children remain in places of safety and the Singapore Boys' Home or Singapore Girls' Home.

- *26. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Prime Minister whether there has been any reconsideration of lowering the voting age to 18 years.
- *27. Mr Saktiandi Supaat: To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) how many cases commenced under the Mental Capacity Act 2008 involved a conflict between a Singapore Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) and a foreign LPA executed by the same donor; (b) whether the Government intends to enhance our laws to recognise and enforce foreign LPAs and foreign mental capacity proceedings; (c) whether Singapore will ratify the 2000 Hague Convention on the International Protection of Adults; and (d) if not, why not.
- *28. Mr Yip Hon Weng: To ask the Prime Minister with the recent update that 99% of all Government transactions can now be done digitally (a) how will the Government ensure that there remains manual payment methods for seniors who have difficulties with digital payments; and (b) with constant threats from increasingly sophisticated cyber scams, whether such total digitalisation will put our seniors at greater risk of scams.
- *29. Mr Murali Pillai: To ask the Minister for Health whether CPF Board can exercise flexibility on a case-by-case basis for a person who wishes to draw down on his MediSave Account to pay for his spouse's monthly renal dialysis treatment so long as he makes active monthly MediSave contributions even if his MediSave Account balance may be below what is required for his age.
- *30. Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye: To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the Ministry has studied the possibility of phasing out the issuance of paper receipts to reduce paper wastage; and (b) if not, whether such a study can be conducted locally.
- *31. Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong: To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry what are the plans for the fauna and flora of Jurong Bird Park upon its closure after 3 January 2023.
- *32. Mr Lim Biow Chuan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance in light of the collapse of cryptocurrency trading platform FTX (a) what is the financial loss suffered by Temasek Holdings; and (b) whether this will affect the Net Investment Returns Contribution for the next three financial years.
- *33. Ms Hazel Poa: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance in cases where large investment losses are made by Temasek Holdings and GIC, whether internal and external investigations are conducted to ascertain whether there is negligence or misconduct.

- *34. Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether there is a Singapore equivalent of the Norwegian Ministry of Finance's Council of Ethics for the observation and exclusion of companies from the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global; and (b) if so, whether the list can be shared and maintained publicly for full accountability.
- *35. Ms Hazel Poa: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance
 (a) how does the Government monitor and assess the performance of
 Temasek Holdings and GIC; (b) whether monitoring and assessing their
 performance includes benchmarking their performance with those of other
 funds; and (c) if so, what are the funds against which Temasek Holdings and
 GIC are benchmarked against and how do they compare.
- *36. Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance
 (a) whether there are guidelines for the requisite sustainability and environmental due diligence and audits for state-linked investments locally and overseas; (b) whether there are guidelines for monitoring investments with potentially substantial climate change impact; and (c) how can state-linked investments continue to do their part and strengthen their contributions to make progress on global sustainability and environmental responsibility.
- *37. Mr Leon Perera: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether NParks is currently tracking the endangered dugong population and movements in coastal waters; and (b) what measures are being taken or planned to study and conserve unprotected seagrass meadows near Singapore's coast that form refuges for the dugong population and are critical nursery sites for other economically and ecologically important marine organisms.
- *38. Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) how has the large number of layoffs from tech firms in the last year affected Singapore's plans to have and maintain a thriving and dynamic tech industry; and (b) what mitigation factors are being undertaken to ensure that this goal remains.
- *39. Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim: To ask the Minister for Education with the resumption of global travel (a) what are the steps taken to encourage more students from the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) to go on overseas study trips, foreign exchanges or internship programmes; and (b) what are the measures taken to prepare our IHLs to attract and welcome foreign students to Singapore on such trips or internship programmes.

- *40. Mr Leon Perera: To ask the Prime Minister following the conclusion of trials in Geylang and One-North and the commencement of trials in Punggol Northshore, whether an update can be provided on the Lamppost-as-a-Platform (LaaP) project on the key performance indicators of the trials, insights gained from the concluded trials and preliminary findings from the Punggol Northshore trial.
- *41. Mr Leong Mun Wai: To ask the Minister for Manpower in each year from 2010 to 2022, what is the number of S Pass holders whose highest qualification was a (i) bachelor's degree from a local university (ii) bachelor's degree from a foreign university (iii) Master's degree and (iv) PhD degree.
- *42. Miss Cheryl Chan Wei Ling: To ask the Minister for National Development with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultancy services centralised under NParks, how will NParks communicate the EIA findings with project developers to ensure accurate implementation and reduce operational missteps in future projects.
- *43. Mr Yip Hon Weng: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) with COE premiums at a record high, whether the Ministry will consider disallowing the conversion of rental cars to private cars and vice versa to discourage excessive fleet sales; (b) whether the Ministry is aware of practices to bypass car loan curbs and what penalties have been meted out to those who engage in it; and (c) whether car loan curbs will be extended to rental, leasing and commercial vehicles.
- *44. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what efforts will be taken to preserve and expand Singapore's mangroves ecosystems under the OneMillionTrees movement; and (b) what percentage of the one million trees that will be planted in Singapore over the next 10 years under this movement will comprise of mangrove trees.
- *45. Mr Saktiandi Supaat: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what are the trends in traffic accidents involving children aged 18 years and below; and (b) whether he can provide an update on the inter-ministry or interagency efforts and resources spent in further enhancing road safety awareness in Singapore.
- *46. Mr Murali Pillai: To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Government will review the current practice of PUB, LTA and NPB each issuing separate maintenance contracts for the maintenance of footpaths, green spaces and drains respectively even though they are all sited contiguously at the same location, with a view to developing a procurement model that leverages on operational synergies resultant from the aggregation of the scope of works at the same location.

- *47. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis: To ask the Minister for Transport what are the key reasons for, and demand drivers behind, the record high Certificate of Entitlement (COE) prices for Categories B, D and E that were set in the latest COE bidding round.
- *48. Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye: To ask the Prime Minister whether the recommendations in MAS' ongoing public consultation can be expedited, to reduce the risk of consumer harm from cryptocurrency trading and to support the development of stablecoins as a credible medium of exchange in the digital asset ecosystem.
- *49. Mr Leon Perera: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) how many times have the Emergency Stop Plungers at MRT stations been activated in each of the last five years; (b) what proportion of such activations occurred during peak hours; (c) what proportion of such activations are non-emergencies; and (d) what is the average duration of service disruption caused by such activations.
- *50. Mr Lim Biow Chuan: To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) how will the Government assist residents who are not digitally literate with the use of digital services; and (b) how do Government agencies communicate with residents who do not have an email.
- *51. Miss Cheryl Chan Wei Ling: To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether he can provide an update on the performance of the ServiceSG Centres since their inception; (b) what are the top five service requests received across these centres; and (c) whether there are any target number of centres to be added if the early pilots have demonstrated to be successful.
- *52. Mr Ang Wei Neng: To ask the Minister for Manpower whether he can provide an update on (i) the plans to better protect gig workers and (ii) the measures to balance the interests of gig work organisations, gig workers and consumers in the wake of high inflation and a high-interest environment.

^{*} 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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment No. 3) Bill [Bill No. 32/2022] – (Minister for Social and Family Development).

Resumption of Debate on Question (28 November 2022)

- "That the Bill be now read a second time.". (Minister for Social and Family Development).
- **2.** Penal Code (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 31/2022] (Minister for Home Affairs) Second Reading.
- **3.** Post-appeal Applications in Capital Cases Bill [Bill No. 34/2022] (Minister for Law) Second Reading.
- **4.** Electric Vehicles Charging Bill [Bill No. 36/2022] (Minister for Transport) Second Reading.
- **5.** State Lands Protection Bill [Bill No. 35/2022] (Minister for Law) Second Reading.

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

- 1. Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong: To ask the Prime Minister in view of Singapore listings having declined more than half from last year compared to the region, what are the upcoming development plans to ensure a dynamic Singapore Initial Public Offering market to keep pace with the investment momentum of the region.
- **2. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Prime Minister how has the share of private residential properties and HDB flats with outstanding mortgage loans changed since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis.
- 3. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) what measures are in place to support and enhance the mental wellness of public officers during the COVID-19 pandemic; (b) what has been the uptake of such mental wellness programmes and measures; and (c) what lessons have been learned about mental wellness support for public officers from the implementation of these programmes.

- **4. Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for Law whether he can provide an update on the Ministry's review of the civil enforcement framework to make enforcement of civil judgments simpler and more streamlined.
- 5. Mr Murali Pillai: To ask the Minister for Law whether the Supreme Court (Protection from Harassment) Rules 2021 may be amended to provide for summary determination and disposal of frivolous and vexatious claims by claimants without the need to notify the respondents to reduce the risk of the Protection from Harassment Court being used by claimants against respondents for collateral purposes.
- **6. Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the update on the status of road noise barrier and low-noise road surfacing trials; and (b) whether LTA will implement such or other measures in the future, particularly along stretches of expressways near public residential housing.
- 7. Mr Yip Hon Weng: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) in the past five years, how many reports of traffic accidents involving foreign-registered vehicles in Singapore are filed; (b) whether the Ministry had rendered any assistance to drivers who have lodged claims against foreign motorists in those cases; (c) whether the Ministry tracks the average duration taken for the settlement of such claims and, if so, what is it currently; and (d) what recourse is available to claimants in such cases where there is inordinate delay.
- **8. Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the colour temperature of Singapore's street lighting; (b) whether studies have been conducted to determine the feasibility of warmer white lighting for street lamps on minor roads, in view of the potential benefits in terms of human health and light pollution; and (c) if so, what are the findings of these studies.
- **9. Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether the ridesharing initiative for commercial vehicles announced by SMRT's subsidiary, EVCo, will receive any assistance from the Government.
- 10. Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Minister for Transport in relation to the additional \$200 million in subsidies to cover the increased costs to public transport operators due to the doubling of energy prices (a) what is the increase in electricity and fuel costs for public transport operators year-to-date; and (b) what proportion of the increase in energy costs are the additional subsidies expected to offset.

- 11. Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim: To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Ministry issues guidelines or regulates acceptable conditions for early-contract termination clauses for taxicabs and private-hire cars especially for unforeseen circumstances such as health-related causes.
- 12. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song: To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what is the Ministry's assessment and update on the fresh chicken supply from Malaysia; and (b) when does the Ministry expect imports of fresh chicken to come in from Indonesia.
- 13. Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim: To ask the Minister for Education in respect of students who have sought counselling support from their schools (a) whether the numbers of such students differ depending on their institutions; (b) if so, what are the percentages of such students respectively in (i) polytechnics (ii) ITEs and (iii) local universities; and (c) whether more resources will be required for such support services in the future.
- **14. Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry imposes specific performance criteria that students previously enrolled in international schools will have to meet in order to seamlessly enrol in MOE schools, upon their return, at a comparable grade level.
- 15. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang: To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development from 2018 to 2021, of children and young persons who enter a place of safety as defined under the Children and Young Persons Act 1993, what is the annual number and percentage of them who subsequently enter (i) the Singapore Boys' Home or Singapore Girls' Home or (ii) prison, respectively.
- 16. Mr Yip Hon Weng: To ask the Minister for Health (a) in the past three years, how many medical clinic licences have been granted; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider making participation in Healthier SG a prerequisite to grant such licences or prioritise the applications of general practitioners who wish to participate.
- 17. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) when reviewing the Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment, whether the Ministry will consult user groups such as breastfeeding mothers, differently-abled individuals, and seniors in updating the Code; (b) if yes, what is the timeline for the consultations and the review; and (c) if not, why not.

- **18. Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for National Development how many HDB flats purchased in each year from 2010 was a (i) resale flat by any owner below age 95 upon lease expiry (ii) resale flat by any owner below age 85 upon lease expiry (iii) resale flat with more than 60 years lease by any owner below age 35 (iv) resale flat with less than 60 years lease by any owner below age 35 and (v) BTO flat by any owner below age 35.
- 19. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis: To ask the Minister for National Development in each year over the last five years, what is the average discount applied to the market value of comparable resale HDB flats in pricing new HDB BTO flats in (i) mature estates and (ii) non-mature estates, with the respective breakdown in flat types.
- 20. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the status of the Government's review of the development staging plans for the Kampong Bugis white site; (b) whether the Government is still intending to introduce the Master Developer approach to land development; and (c) what is the expected launch dates of the Master Developer sites at Kampong Bugis, Holland Plain and Bayshore.
- 21. Dr Tan Wu Meng: To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) whether the Government has conducted any studies on the impact of quantum computing technology; (b) if so, what is the Government's assessment of the risk and potential time horizon of quantum computing rendering contemporary traditional encryption algorithms obsolete and vulnerable; and (c) what are the Government's plans to ensure encrypted digital records and communications networks will remain secure even in the event of a breakthrough in quantum computing.
- **22. Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Manpower what is the number of workers with a Letter of Consent who are employed in jobs with a job scope or salary equivalent to (i) employment pass holders (ii) S Pass holders and (iii) work permit holders.
- 23. Mr Leong Mun Wai: To ask the Minister for Manpower what is the number former employment pass holders who have been subsequently granted an S Pass in each year since 2010.
- 24. Mr Leong Mun Wai: To ask the Minister for Manpower for each year since 2010, what is the number of (i) employment pass holders and (ii) S Pass holders respectively, whose occupations are classified as (i) Professionals, Managers and Executives (PMEs) (ii) Associate Professionals and Technicians (APTs) and (iii) non-PMEs and non-APTs.

- 25. Miss Rachel Ong: To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether there is a requirement for pre-packed food catered for migrant workers in smaller dormitories with less than 1,000 beds to be time-stamped to indicate time for safe consumption; (b) if so, how is that monitored and enforced; and (c) whether the Foreign Employee Dormitories Act will incorporate regulation of food caterers for these smaller dormitories starting from 1 April 2023.
- **26. Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the number of workers in the technology sector who have been retrenched in 2022 to date; and (b) whether global layoffs by big technology firms are having an impact on Singapore's technology employment landscape.
- 27. Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Minister for Manpower in the first 10 months of 2022 (a) whether the Government has data on the number of Singaporeans who are made redundant from tech firms such as Grab, Stripe, Meta, Shopee and SEA Limited and, if so, how many; (b) what is the median age of the affected workers; (c) what is the median salary of the tech employees who are retrenched; and (d) how many non-Singaporeans, including permanent residents, are among those laid off by the tech firms.

PAPER PRESENTED

2022 Date Presented

S. 323 Commissioner of Charities Annual Report 2021 28 November 2022