

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE  
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER  
WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2024

No. 122

10.30 am

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER\*

- \*1. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Education how have the heritage and identity of each Government school been preserved and passed on after the merger of primary and secondary schools.
- \*2. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether an update can be provided on how newly merged schools have begun to forge new identities; and (b) what is being done to actively live out the old traditions of each former school.
- \*3. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the upcoming rollout of ERP 2.0, whether there are considerations to compensate point-to-point drivers on the downtime that is required for installing the new on-board units in their vehicles.
- \*4. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health to reduce overcrowding at accident and emergency (A&E) departments in the public hospitals (a) whether the Ministry will implement initiatives to improve health literacy and public understanding of common medical condition and proper emergency care procedures; (b) how is the Ministry raising public awareness about A&E and GP fees, and subsidy programmes like GPFirst; and (c) how is the Ministry planning to incorporate more remote care and triaging at the A&E departments.
- \*5. **Mr Darryl David:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry has data on how many persons with disabilities (PwDs) have applied for jobs through the Employment and Employability Institute in the last five years; (b) how many of these PwDs successfully found employment that lasted more than six months; and (c) whether the Government has a strategy for the public and private sectors to enhance employment opportunities for PwDs.
- \*6. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for National Development with regard to keeping food prices affordable in the heartlands, whether the Ministry will consider taking further measures to assist stallholders of coffee shops who are facing increasing rentals and other business overheads.
- \*7. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how often does the Ministry ensure that schools adhere to the guidelines on setting their Direct School Admission for Secondary Schools (DSA-Sec) criteria and their selection of students; (b) whether there are systems in place to prevent preferential treatment and abuse of the DSA-Sec process; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider a review of the DSA-Sec route for better standardisation and transparency of the selection process.
- \*8. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry has received complaints about the Direct School Admission for Secondary Schools (DSA-Sec) route in the last five years; (b) if so, how many complaints have been received; (c) what actions have been taken to address the complaints; and (d) what are the lessons learned and the follow-up actions from these complaints.
- \*9. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development for each year in the past five years, what is the mean and median salaries of Child Protection Officers.

- \*10. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the average enrolment capacity for Healthier SG in each polyclinic; (b) how many polyclinics have reached their capacity and are no longer accepting Healthier SG enrolments; (c) whether the Ministry is looking to open up more places in polyclinics for residents to enrol in Healthier SG.
- \*11. **Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what in-school programmes are currently in place to educate children enrolled in primary schools about how to recognise and report physical, sexual and emotional abuses in school settings; and (b) how will the Ministry evaluate the effectiveness of these programmes.
- \*12. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Ministry will consider updating and standardising "use by" and "best before" date-labels for food to reduce confusion over whether food needs to be disposed of for safety reasons and hence reduce food waste due to the confusion.
- \*13. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the CPF Board has conducted a review of the computation of monthly CPF interest payment and, if so, whether it will consider including (i) contributions received during the month and (ii) amounts held in the account prior to its withdrawal, as pro-rated by the number of days that the respective amounts reside in the CPF accounts during the month.
- \*14. **Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs in view of the ongoing situation and the progress of implementing the "Five-Point Consensus" in Myanmar, what is the Ministry's assessment of the impact on ASEAN's unity and image.
- \*15. **Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry is considering requiring individuals who provide private or in-home tuition to children, including religious education, to be registered and screened for their suitability to work with children.
- \*16. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether an update can be provided on the review looking at how point-to-point services can better meet the evolving needs of commuters, including how effective a separate COE category for private-hire cars can support this endeavour; (b) what is the expected timeline for the completion of the review; and (c) under the review, whether occasional private-hire drivers who primarily use their vehicles for personal needs will be affected.
- \*17. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry has data on the general trend of the success rates for Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) at public centres being higher or lower than private centres; and (b) whether the difference in ART success rates for public and private centres is within 10%.
- \*18. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development whether the Government will consider implementing a universal code of conduct prescribing a standard of care across all (i) homes for children and adults with disabilities and (ii) day activity centres for persons with special needs.
- \*19. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the Government will consider working with the Singapore Exchange (SGX) to define Tripartite Standards such as the Tripartite Standard for Contracting with Self-Employed Persons, as a component of the material environmental, social and governance factors under SGX-listed firms' sustainability reporting.

- \*20. Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is HDB's current practice for effecting repairs and redecoration (R&R) works for multi-storey car parks (MSCPs) when there are concurrent R&R works in the precinct; (b) whether there are any guidelines on the maximum duration for R&R works on precinct housing blocks and their MSCPs to differ; and (c) whether HDB will consider a system where town councils bid for R&R works for MSCPs alongside precinct tenders, with proportionate cost-sharing.
- \*21. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what are the results on the Ministry's most recent review of teachers' workloads; and (b) if a review has not been done recently, when will one be carried out.
- \*22. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) in view of individual bankruptcy applications at an 18-year high and increased corporate insolvencies in 2023, whether this is a cause for concern to the Government; (b) whether the rise in insolvency is primarily due to struggles to service existing debts, or is it also driven by a higher risk appetite for new ventures; and (c) whether the Government is planning more services to address this issue, such as expanded debt counselling services or financial literacy programmes.
- \*23. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance in each year over the past 10 years of income tax assessment, what is the (i) 25th percentile (ii) median and (iii) 75th percentile of Total Employment and Trade Income of the top 1,000 earners from all professions who are Singapore citizens.
- \*24. Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether he can provide a progress update regarding the implementation of a Global Positioning System (GPS)-based approach procedure at Seletar Airport; (b) when will it be fully implemented; and (c) whether there is any delay in the implementation of the GPS-based approach procedure and, if so, what are the factors slowing down the implementation.

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

## ORDER OF THE DAY

### 1. ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH:

*Resumption of Debate on Question (6 February 2024) –*

ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH: That this House recognises the importance of mental health as a health, social and economic issue; affirms the importance of a robust national mental health ecosystem; and calls for a whole-of-Singapore effort to implement a national strategy to enhance mental health and well-being. – (Dr Wan Rizal)

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## NOTICE OF MOTION

### 1. Mr Leong Mun Wai (Non-Constituency Member): Ms Hazel Poa (Non-Constituency Member):

PUBLIC FINANCES: That this House calls on the Government to review its current budget and reserve accumulation policies in order to help present-day Singaporeans reduce their financial burdens and improve their quality of life, while continuing to save for future generations of Singaporeans.

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**MEMORANDUM**

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

Ms He Ting Ru : Building a Heat-resilient Singapore.  
(Sengkang)

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**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

1. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether any attempts to breach Singpass facial verification have been detected since it was launched; and (b) what safeguards and measures have been taken to ensure that Singpass facial verification cannot be breached by deepfakes or other clones generated by artificial intelligence.
2. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) what is the current number of financial support schemes from the Government available to individuals and households; (b) how many of such schemes require individuals or households to actively make an application; and (c) what is the rationale for not automatically granting support under schemes where the qualification criteria are objective and not subjective.
3. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) for the past three years, how many individuals or households were eligible for support schemes which benefits were meant to be automatically disbursed but did not receive the support; (b) how many complaints or appeals were made concerning suspected erroneous payouts including fraud cases; and (c) whether there were any cases in the last five years where additional benefits were found to be erroneously disbursed to those not eligible.
4. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether the Ministry will review the Community Development Council Vouchers scheme to better support larger households by adjusting voucher allocations based on household size.
5. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Defence (a) what is the Central Manpower Base's process to evaluate the case for altering a National Serviceman's Physical Employment Standard (PES) status when one reports psychological trauma or difficulties; (b) what is the average time taken for this evaluation process before a resolution to change a PES status is concluded; and (c) what is the average time after the change of PES status is concluded before the Serviceman is reassigned to a different vocation or appointment.
6. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs (a) what is the timeline for the Ministry's regular review of Singapore's contributions to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and (b) what criteria does the Ministry apply to determining whether the current level of contribution is sufficient.
7. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in light of the lysergic acid diethylamide stamps detected in a parcel at the SingPost Centre on 21 December 2023 (a) whether the Ministry requires SingPost employees to receive routine training and regular updates to detect signs of drugs, contraband or hazardous materials; (b) what resources are available to safeguard employees against the handling of such materials; and (c) whether the Ministry will, in addition to the available technology for detection, deploy sniffer dogs for biosecurity risks at the SingPost Centre.
8. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs for the last five years (a) what was the total amount of man hours of patrols undertaken by volunteers with the Citizens on Patrol scheme; and (b) what was the monthly average number of hours contributed by volunteers in the scheme.

9. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether an update can be provided on the traction of the Farm-to-Table Recognition (FTR) Programme among (i) food businesses in the hotel, restaurant and catering sectors and (ii) consumers since April 2023; (b) whether the Ministry plans to onboard coffee shops and hawker centres onto the FTR Programme; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider measures to improve the affordability of local produce for businesses and consumers, to encourage greater traction of the FTR Programme.
10. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) how many building contractors who violated environmental pollution laws have been apprehended in the past three years; (b) whether routine surveillance and spot checks are in place to monitor these contractors as they complete the construction project; (c) what proactive measures are Government agencies implementing to prevent environmental violations; (d) what reporting channels are available to the public; and (e) what is the process to ensure effective follow-up and resolution.
11. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) why can the balance of the Post-Secondary Education Account (PSEA) only be checked by calling a 24-hour hotline; (b) whether such a system poses data privacy and security concerns since any person can check the PSEA funds balance of any other person as long as they have the other person's NRIC number; and (c) whether the Ministry will build an online system with Singpass authentication for PSEA holders to check their balances and, if not, why not.
12. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what is the rationale for only transferring Post-Secondary Education Account (PSEA) balances to the CPF Ordinary Accounts only at age 31 rather than an earlier age; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider allowing PSEA holders to transfer their account balances to their CPF Ordinary Accounts prior to age 31 so that these monies can be used for other purposes such as housing and, if not, why not.
13. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Education what programmes, such as strategic thinking and problem-solving, can be introduced in the education system so as to prepare the students to become leaders in a time of uncertainty.
14. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry will consider expanding education and career guidance to cater to the interests and needs of students and recent alumni from institutes of higher learning who are already freelancing or exploring freelancing as a form of employment.
15. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry will work with relevant stakeholders such as the National Trades Union Congress and the Tripartite Alliance for Fair and Progressive Employment Practices to communicate to graduating students the contact points for guidance should they encounter contract or payment-related issues when freelancing.
16. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) in each of the last three years, what is the ratio of (i) social workers and (ii) staff members to persons with special needs at homes for adults and children with disabilities, non-profit organisations and day activity centres; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider collecting this data if such data is currently unavailable.
17. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how many female Singapore citizens have received menopausal hormonal treatment in the public hospitals from (i) 2013 to 2017 and (ii) 2018 to 2023; and (b) of which, what is the proportion who have received subsidised treatment from (i) 2013 to 2017 and (ii) 2018 to 2023.

18. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry has data on the current number of organisations in Singapore that have programmes and benefits for female workers who are experiencing menopause-related health issues; and (b) what form do the majority of these programmes and benefits take.
19. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) for each year in the last five years, what is the number and proportion of repeat vaping offenders from schools and institutes of higher learning; (b) what are the differentiated help programmes for re-offenders and their families; and (c) how effective are these programmes in helping youths to curb vaping addiction.
20. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how many women in Singapore suffer from some form of arthralgia (joint pain) currently; (b) how many women suffered from this condition in 2013 as compared to the number in 2023; (c) whether the Ministry will raise awareness of arthralgia as a symptom of menopause; and (d) whether the Ministry has programmes for the early detection and treatment of arthralgia.
21. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) of all the HDB BTO units launched this year, how many units are directly facing a multi-storey car park at the same or higher levels; (b) how many units below the fifth floor are directly facing a bin centre; and (c) what are the factors considered when deciding whether to construct a multi-storey car park within the same block or in a separate building next to the block.
22. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development in each year of the past five years, what is the average ratio of staff to animals at licensed breeding facilities for (i) dogs and (ii) cats.
23. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for National Development what are the reasons for the imposition of a wait-out period for Singapore citizens and permanent residents who have recently disposed of their overseas property, as opposed to local property, for the purposes of purchasing a HDB flat.
24. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) how many places of worship which are gazetted as national monuments currently sit on privately owned leasehold land; and (b) whether exceptions can be made to grant freehold or 999-year leases to such places of worship which are legally protected from alterations and changes that will affect their character and significance.
25. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Manpower how does the Ministry ensure that employers act responsibly in safeguarding the interests of employees when considering cost-cutting measures.
26. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether there are any penalties when an employer who is required to inform the union about a retrenchment exercise does not do so.
27. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Manpower what are the reasons for (i) the decrease in PMET employment for those aged below 30 years old in 2022 compared to previous years and (ii) the significant increase in PMET employment for those in their 40s to 50s.
28. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Manpower what is the current number and proportion of CPF members who have (i) opened a CPF Investment Account (ii) made investments via the CPF Investment Scheme-Ordinary Account and (iii) made investments in Singapore Government Securities.

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29. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Manpower what is the rationale for sale proceeds from investments made under the CPF Investment Scheme-Ordinary Account to remain in the Investment Account and not automatically credited into the OA, while sale proceeds under the CPFIS-Special Account are automatically credited into the SA.
30. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) in each of the past three years, how many vehicles have been subjected to additional inspection in response to complaints about vehicle modifications; (b) how many of these have been found to have illegal modifications; and (c) how many workshops have been investigated and penalised for performing illegal modifications on vehicles.
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