

**FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE  
(SECOND SESSION)**

**ORDER PAPER  
TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024**

No. 125

10.30 am

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**QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER\***

- \*1. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the demand for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) has increased between 2019 and 2023 and, if so, by how much; and (b) in each year from 2019 to 2023, what has the attrition rate of AHPs been in (i) public acute hospitals (ii) public community hospitals (iii) public long-term care facilities and (iv) polyclinics.
- \*2. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how does the attrition rate of Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) in public acute hospitals, public community hospitals, public long-term care facilities and polyclinics compare with those of doctors and nurses; (b) what measures are being considered to address attrition rate of AHPs; and (c) whether such measures include an increase in remuneration.
- \*3. Ms Carrie Tan:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment in view of rising land demands for storing cremation niches and urns (a) how quickly can the Ministry ramp up the capacity for inland ash scattering as the main method for the management of cremated remains; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider launching a programme to make inland ash scattering the default method for managing remains of non-Muslim Singaporeans and provide an opt-out option to those who do not prefer it.
- \*4. Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to requests for road safety features such as speed bumps, zebra crossings, traffic lights and overhead bridges received from Members of Parliament, residents and members of the public (a) how does the Ministry evaluate such requests; (b) whether the Ministry will re-evaluate the requests upon further studies conducted or following accidents; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider revising its criteria for road safety features around schools and residential areas arising from these requests.
- \*5. Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what are the measures taken by the Singapore Police Force to regulate the use of online apps, including chat groups and messaging platforms, for illegal activities such as the sale of prohibited drugs.
- \*6. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the target number of students expected to be trained through the new Master of Science in Holistic Palliative Care programme; (b) what employment opportunities and career progression in our public healthcare system are available for graduates; and (c) what other initiatives is the Ministry undertaking to broaden and improve palliative care education for healthcare professionals.
- \*7. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether an update can be provided on the Southern Islands Biodiversity Survey report; and (b) whether the Ministry is on track to publish the report by this year as previously announced.

- \*8. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) how will the Ministry ensure that no vulnerable groups are impacted by the decline of readily available street-hail taxis, particularly seniors and special needs individuals, who may find it challenging to use ride-hailing apps; and (b) whether the Ministry works with the SG Digital Office to offer training programmes specifically targeted at helping these vulnerable groups to utilise ride-hailing apps.
- \*9. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) for each year in the past two years, what is the mean and median number of hours that couples wait when attending appointments for assisted reproductive treatments at public hospitals; and (b) if this data is not available, whether the Ministry will consider tracking such waiting times.
- \*10. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the increased maximum compensation for workplace injuries by 2025 is high enough to incentivise businesses to significantly prioritise investments in safety practices and injury prevention efforts, rather than viewing accidents as an acceptable financial risk with lower costs; and (b) what monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place to assess the impact of the increased compensation on workplace safety outcomes and employer behaviour.
- \*11. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Prime Minister what are the main reasons for 6-month and 1-year Treasury bills issued by the Government to bear higher interest rates than fixed deposits of the same respective maturity offered by commercial banks.
- \*12. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Health whether the recently published salary guidelines for the community care sector includes engagements with trade and health professional bodies so that employees in privately owned general practitioner and specialist clinics can also peg their salaries according to the recommended job bands and job roles.
- \*13. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Health given the unanimous vote by a US Food and Drug Administration’s advisory panel deeming phenylephrine as being ineffective as a decongestant (a) whether HSA will cease to approve medicines containing phenylephrine intended to be used as decongestants for (i) general sale and (ii) prescription; (b) if so, what is the timeline to do so; (c) if not, why not; and (d) whether binding advice will be issued by HSA on acceptable phenylephrine parameters as decongestants in medicines.

\* 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.

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## ORDER OF THE DAY

### 1. BUDGET STATEMENT:

*Resumption of Debate on Question (16 February 2024) (2<sup>nd</sup> Allotted Day) –*

“That Parliament approves the financial policy of the Government for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.”. – (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance).

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**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

1. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) for each year since 2022, what is the amount and percentage of Treasury bills that were allotted to retail investors; and (b) whether the Monetary Authority of Singapore plans to take any steps to promote this investment instrument among retail investors.
2. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how have automated clearance lanes improved the processing time and efficiency at border checkpoints; and (b) whether the Ministry has any plans to expand the number of automated lanes to accommodate increasing traveller volumes.
3. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how accessible are automated clearance lanes at border checkpoints for travellers with disabilities or those requiring special assistance; and (b) whether there are any initiatives to make automated clearance lanes more user-friendly for elderly travellers and young children.
4. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how does the Ministry ensure the security and integrity of automated border control systems against potential cyber threats; and (b) what measures are in place to prevent unauthorised entry through automated lanes.
5. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs over the last three years (a) how many cases of road rage have been reported; and (b) what percentage of these point to drivers as (i) victims and (ii) perpetrators.
6. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in the last three years (a) how many complaints has the Ministry received for alleged offences under the Protection from Harassment Act; (b) how many protection orders have been granted; and (c) arising from these protection orders, how many are prosecuted and charged.
7. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Ministry has data on the number of complaints received by the Consumers Association of Singapore or other agencies with regard to the use of undue pressure, misleading sales tactics or unfair sales practices by hair salons in the heartlands in the last three years; (b) what are the actions taken and the remedies granted; and (c) what stronger measures can be taken against the recalcitrant hair salons.
8. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what is the proportion of tenure-track faculty hired in the last five years at local universities who received their PhDs at any local university; and (b) whether this proportion is expected to rise given the excellent performance of local universities on global rankings.
9. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Education whether there is a regular and systematic process for the Child Protective Service, Government agencies, Family Service Centres and other stakeholders with information relevant to a student's well-being to provide schools with such information necessary to ensure the student's welfare in school.
10. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the current status of blood supply and demand for blood in our healthcare system; and (b) what are the measures being taken to ensure that there is an adequate supply of blood across all blood types, especially those that are rare.
11. **Mr Shawn Huang Wei Zhong:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how prepared is the nation's blood supply to handle emergencies or disasters that may lead to a sudden spike in demand; and (b) what protocols are in place for rapid mobilisation of blood resources in such scenarios.

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12. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether paid-up capital is adequate as a key metric for assessing construction companies tendering for public sector construction projects; and (b) whether additional criteria can be implemented, such as accounts receivable turnover ratio and operating cash flow, as well as limiting the number of concurrent projects the construction companies may take up.
  13. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether he can provide an update on the details of the Voluntary Early Redevelopment Scheme (VERS) policy; and (b) whether alternative solutions will be explored for estates where VERS is not feasible, to address concerns about the feasibility of buying property with a short remaining lease term.
  14. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower other than ensuring that food storage points are adequate and sheltered, what other improvements have the Ministry's inspectors required dormitory operators to make with regard to food storage and drop-off points for food for migrant workers.
  15. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Land Transport Authority (LTA) is aware that owners of illegally modified vehicles who are summoned for inspections remove these modifications before inspections and reinstall them afterwards; and (b) what steps has LTA taken to deal with such occurrences.
  16. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) in the last five years, what is the number of traffic accidents that have occurred on the Bukit Timah Expressway, Pan Island Expressway and Kranji Expressway; (b) how much traffic congestion and time delays have the accidents on these expressways caused to motorists and commuters; and (c) how soon did the Expressway Monitoring Advisory System Vehicle Recovery Service respond to the accidents.
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