

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER
MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2024

No. 142

12 noon

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

- *1. **Ms Poh Li San:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the East-West MRT Line disruption in September 2024 (a) whether the faulty train causing damage to the rail tracks has been withdrawn in accordance with approved procedures; (b) what is the total number of commuters affected; (c) what is the estimated loss of fare revenue; and (d) what is the total expenditure on the bridging bus services.
- *2. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Transport what actions are being considered by LTA to prevent a recurrence of the East-West MRT Line service disruption on 25 September 2024.
- *3. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) in view of recent major MRT service disruptions, whether the Public Transport Council will consider reviewing the fare increase scheduled for 28 December 2024; (b) if not, why not; and (c) whether service reliability in the period leading up to the date of the proposed fare increase can be considered as a factor in the fare adjustment formula to spur improvements in the reliability of bus and train services.
- *4. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Transport with the recent spate of train service disruptions including those affecting the East-West MRT line (a) whether the Ministry will conduct an overall review of the MRT network to forestall and minimize service disruptions; (b) whether there is a redundancy plan for power supply to keep trains running; (c) whether penalties will be imposed on the train service providers; and (d) if so, how are such penalties determined.
- *5. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what root causes have been identified for the train disruption along the East-West MRT line on 25 September 2024; (b) what are the reasons why a faulty train's withdrawal led to damage of the MRT track, running rails and third rail; (c) what precautionary measures are taken when the faulty train is withdrawn; (d) how can these precautionary measures be improved; and (e) what has been done to support affected commuters including students.
- *6. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Government will consider issuing a work-from-home advisory during major train disruptions in the future to reduce pressure on the public transport system and, if not, why not.
- *7. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether commuters making connecting trips before and after travelling on closed MRT line segments will be charged twice if they exceed the 45-minute transfer time limit while using free bridging bus services; and (b) if so, how many commuters affected by the East-West MRT Line disruption on 25 September 2024 may have been charged twice.
- *8. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether he will convene a Committee of Inquiry to investigate the root causes of the East-West MRT Line disruption on 25 September 2024.

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- *9. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the total cost of the repair works arising from the East-West MRT Line disruption on 25 September 2024; and (b) whether the cost will be borne by commuters.
- *10. **Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) how often do MRT trains undergo maintenance checks; (b) what are the standard operating procedures for maintenance checks and maintenance works on MRT trains; and (c) how will the Ministry review the current maintenance procedures to ensure that MRT trains are operating at a high standard to prevent future incidents.
- *11. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Ministry can provide details on the causes and findings for the recent train failure on the East-West MRT Line; (b) whether there will be a review and changes made to the train and rail maintenance regime; and (c) how can the overall experience for commuters during the prolonged train disruption be improved.
- *12. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what are the service standards for the free bus bridging services provided during train disruptions under the Bus Contracting Model; (b) whether the bus bridging services provided during the East-West MRT Line disruption on 25 September 2024 have met these standards; and (c) whether the disruption has resulted in a decline in service standards on regular bus services and, if so, what is the extent of the decline.
- *13. **Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what support has been provided to persons with disabilities and the elderly during the train disruptions on the East-West MRT Line from 25 to 30 September 2024; and (b) what measures will the Government take to ensure more effective dissemination of information both online and at MRT stations during train disruptions to minimise confusion among commuters.
- *14. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what caused the train axle box that caused damages and disruptions to the East-West MRT Line to be defective; (b) why was this not detected prior to the incident; and (c) whether LTA is considering a comprehensive review of predictive maintenance capabilities and real time condition-monitoring of rail systems and operating assets at SMRT to identify potential lapses and prevent future occurrences.
- *15. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the faulty SMRT train which triggered the multi-day East-West MRT Line disruption from 25 September 2024 (a) when was the last time the carriages underwent axle box functionality tests and related inspection and checks; (b) whether any preventive and predictive maintenance was carried out on its axle box and related parts; (c) if so, when was the maintenance last carried out; (d) why was the maintenance inadequate; and (e) what went wrong in the maintenance and checking processes.
- *16. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the faulty SMRT train which triggered the multi-day East-West MRT Line disruption from 25 September 2024 (a) what was the initial reported fault which caused the cancellation of the service; (b) what was the cause of the dislodgement of the axle box from the train; and (c) what was the time taken by the train's driver or any personnel in charge of the tow to stop the tow after the dislodgement of the axle box.
- *17. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether LTA will conduct a review of the existing requirements on the maintenance regime and practices of all MRT trains including but not limited to older trains such as the first-generation Kawasaki Heavy Industries trains.

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- *18. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Transport in relation to the 6-day shutdown of the East West MRT Line in September 2024 (a) what has been the total capacity of bridging bus services put into effect compared to the average ridership of the stations that are closed; and (b) whether there is a need to mandate better maintenance and servicing requirements for train operators.
- *19. **Ms Hany Soh:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the disruption of train services on the East-West MRT Line from 25 to 30 September 2024, whether the Ministry has considered requesting assistance and resources from the armed forces to ease human congestion and to ensure public safety.
- *20. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether teachers are sufficiently equipped with the knowledge and skills to identify and manage bullying, especially in cases where victims do not report incidents; and (b) what measures are in place to ensure schools have adequate trained personnel, such as counsellors and disciplinary staff, to support teachers and students in handling bullying cases.
- *21. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Education how are schools helping students who are bullied to restore their confidence and rebuild their identity and self-worth.
- *22. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what steps are taken by the Ministry and schools to prevent occurrences of bullying incidents in schools; (b) what is the level of collaboration between schools and the Singapore Police Force in cases where the bullying of students happen outside of the schools; and (c) whether there are adequate monitoring and surveillance to pick up early indications of bullying situations and what are the preemptive and preventive measures.
- *23. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) in each year of the past five years, how many reports has the Ministry received regarding incidents of bullying that occurred within or outside of school premises; and (b) in view of the recent bullying incidents at an Institute of Technical Education campus, a secondary school and a primary school, whether the Ministry currently has in place an anti-bullying policy at all schools.
- *24. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what specific criteria are used to determine whether an incident is to be classified as bullying that warrants action to be taken by the educational institution; (b) whether the Ministry has conducted any recent surveys among students to assess the prevalence of bullying in schools; and (c) what are the interventions and support provided to teachers to help them deal with bullying cases in the course of their work.
- *25. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry tracks the number of reported bullying cases in schools; (b) if so, what is the number of bullying cases in each year of the last five years; (c) if not, why not; and (d) what resources and policies are being put in place in schools to enhance the detection, reporting and correction of bullying cases.
- *26. **Ms Hany Soh:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry has observed a rising trend in bullying cases involving school students; and (b) how can the Ministry better prevent bullying of school students and support victims of bullying.
- *27. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) in the last five years, what are the observed trends relating to the number of bullying cases schools have received; (b) what is the breakdown between online and offline bullying incidents reported to schools; and (c) whether there are any special guidelines given or approaches taken for cases of bullying involving students with neurodiverse conditions or disabilities and, if so, what are they.

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- *28. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what is the median rent for hawker stalls tendered out in the last two years, excluding stalls that have had their rents adjusted after their three-year tenancy period; and (b) whether the National Environment Agency has any plans to review the duration of the initial tenancy period to discourage disproportionately high rental bids.
- *29. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) when did the National Environment Agency last reviewed the way hawker stalls are tendered out; (b) whether a ballot model at a fixed rental rate targeted at cost-recovery have been considered; and (c) if so, what are the reasons for not moving to such a model.
- *30. **Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development what is the Ministry's response to the findings of a recent study by the Institute of Mental Health and KK Women's and Children's Hospital on the long-term economic and social costs of adverse childhood experiences.
- *31. **Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Health what programmes or resources are available within the Government and the community healthcare system to help identify and support children and young persons affected by adverse childhood experiences.
- *32. **Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Education what programmes or resources are available within early childhood education and in schools to identify and support students affected by adverse childhood experiences.
- *33. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) what is his assessment of the public impact of the case involving the former Minister-in-charge for Trade Relations on building public confidence in a culture of zero tolerance for corruption among Government officials; and (b) whether Singapore's anti-corruption laws should be reviewed for greater efficacy.
- *34. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether the definition of "public servant" under the Penal Code is fit for purpose for an offence under section 165 of the Penal Code.
- *35. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether BCA is actively encouraging construction and infrastructure companies to use drones for inspections of projects, especially for the facades of high-rise buildings.
- *36. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Ministry is educating and equipping construction and infrastructure companies to utilise drone technology to increase efficiency and safety in the workplace.
- *37. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how has the use of drones by the building industry helped to improve productivity and effectiveness in building inspections, repairs and maintenance; and (b) whether the process of seeking approvals for the use of drones can be streamlined and the turnaround time for granting approvals improved.
- *38. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether the Ministry has conducted studies to determine the cost of CCTV installations in preschools; and (b) whether the Ministry can consider subsidy support to assist preschools in the mandatory installation of CCTVs.

- *39. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) what criteria will the Ministry use in assessing the initial four-year pilot for the Overseas Humanitarian Assistance Tax Deduction Scheme; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider extending the pilot to not just emergency humanitarian assistance but to all other humanitarian assistance if the first year of the pilot is successful.
- *40. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether safety procedures will be reviewed to further strengthen safety at worksites, in view of the recent deaths of two workers at a worksite in Lentor Avenue and another worker at a worksite in Resorts World Sentosa; and (b) if so, what are these measures.
- *41. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) in the last 12 months, how many applicants for Build-To-Order or Sale of Balance flats have received more than one HDB invitation to book flats in different projects; and (b) why does HDB disallow the applicants from selecting a flat in a project with a later booking date in such situations.
- *42. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry in light of the recent fire incidents involving solar photovoltaic (PV) systems (a) how does the Ministry ensure the proper installation of solar PV systems; (b) whether there are any mandatory maintenance requirements for solar PV systems in Singapore especially those that which service critical infrastructures such as data centres; and (c) whether the Ministry will ensure that there are proper training for professionals who install solar PV systems to reduce the risk of electrical faults.
- *43. **Miss Rachel Ong:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether there can be allocated spaces and time-controlled charging points in HDB carparks for motorised personal mobility aids, with priority charging given to those staying in smaller HDB flats with space limitations.
- *44. **Mr Sharael Taha:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) of the current students who have secured places through the Direct School Admission for Secondary Schools, what percentage of them come from lower-income households and are on financial assistance schemes; (b) whether the policy outcome has shifted from its intent of identifying talents to favouring students who can afford enrichment and preparatory programmes; (c) whether the policy now benefits those with access to costly training such as interview coaching; and (d) how can more opportunities be given to students from lower-income households.
- *45. **Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether there are other measures besides salary support to jointly resolve with employers the manpower challenges that arise from the upcoming increase in parental maternity leave.
- *46. **Mr Sharael Taha:** To ask the Minister for National Development in the past three years, of the divorces filed where the couples co-own HDB flats, what is the proportion of (i) the matrimonial flats being sold on the open market and (ii) the divorcees being able to own flats after selling their matrimonial flats.
- *47. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Ministry will consider prohibiting smoking in the area directly under MRT or LRT viaducts.
- *48. **Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry (a) which are some of the potential business sectors in Johor that Malaysia businesses are keen to collaborate with Singapore businesses under the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ); and (b) what are some of the infrastructural and operational areas in the JSEZ that continue to be of concern to Singapore businesses.

- *49. Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth whether the Ministry has plans to further refine the Skills Framework for Arts (Arts Education) such that the general skill sets required for professionals in the Education Track and Research Track are defined in a more targeted way in relation to each of the specific fields of dance, literary arts, music, theatre and visual arts.
- *50. Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry will consider implementing guidelines for local universities to ensure that campus transport and food court services are sufficient for students' needs and well-being, in view of the recent overcrowding issues.
- *51. Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what preventive strategies are being implemented to address the key factors contributing to mental health issues among youths, such as excessive social media use or having body shape concerns; and (b) how are schools and youth services being supported to implement these measures.
- *52. Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what targeted measures are being implemented to address the findings of the National Youth Mental Health Study on the rising prevalence of severe mental health symptoms such as depression, anxiety, and stress experienced by youths; and (b) how will the Ministry ensure equitable access to mental health services for all youths particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- *53. Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Law since 1 April 2022 (a) what is the number of orders issued by the Small Claims Tribunals; (b) whether the Ministry tracks the compliance of these orders; (c) whether the Ministry is aware of cases where either party fails to execute or enforce the order due to a lack of resources to hire a lawyer; and (d) if so, what is the percentage of such cases.
- *54. Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Government has conducted any recent or ongoing studies to measure any quantifiable effects of a dense urban living environment on individuals' physiological stress responses and, if so, to share the findings of these studies.
- *55. Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what are (i) the current usage rates of cross-border point-to-point transport services between Singapore and Johor Bahru and (ii) the average waiting times for a cross-border taxi in Singapore; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider increasing the number of pick-up and drop-off points in Singapore and Johor Bahru for cross-border taxis to afford greater convenience and accessibility to travellers.
- *56. Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant:** To ask the Minister for Defence (a) whether the Ministry can provide details on the safety audits and review processes that are regularly conducted by the SAF Inspector-General's Office at training camps; (b) what are the common safety lapses that continue to occur during the SAF's training and the reasons behind such occurrences and; (c) what steps have been put in place to ensure such lapses do not recur and the quality and standard of SAF's training is not compromised.
- *57. Mr Sharael Taha:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) as the number of students diagnosed with special education needs (SEN) increases, how does the Ministry plan to enhance the capacity and competency of the education system to support them; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider leveraging technology, such as autocorrect and voice-to-text tools, to aid SEN students like those with dyslexia.

- *58. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry will consider extending its purview and resourcing of human capital development to cover Singaporean freelancers across industries in expertise and knowledge-based professions to enhance the economic value of their contributions to local firms and to align with Singapore's economic transformation efforts; and (b) if not, why not.
- *59. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) in each of the past five years, how many estate agents have been disciplined for breaching their professional and ethical obligations and are (i) fined or subject to financial penalty (ii) suspended from practising as an estate agent (iii) disqualified from acting as an estate agent and (iv) sentenced to imprisonment, respectively; and (b) whether the penalties for breaching the Estate Agents Act and its subsidiary regulation are sufficient to deter misconduct by estate agents.
- *60. **Ms Ng Ling Ling:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development in view of the 32 per cent increase in the number of children aged six and below with developmental needs from 5,300 in 2019 to 7,000 in 2023 (a) what is the current average waiting time for a child to be enrolled in the Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC); and (b) how many children have been enrolled in EIPIC annually in the last three years.
- *61. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Government has information on the number of micro enterprises and small businesses that are (i) affected by or (ii) facing cash flow difficulties due to unfulfilled payments from the Qoo10 e-commerce platform; (b) what is the current median waiting time for a Small Claims Tribunal hearing for claimants filing against Qoo10 on such matters; and (c) what support is available to small business owners facing cash flow difficulties and are concerned about timely recovery of the amounts due from Qoo10.
- *62. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Digital Development and Information (a) whether the measure of more than 85% per building of in-building service coverage for the 4G cellular network required of mobile operators under IMDA's 4G Quality of Service framework covers below ground parking spaces of buildings; (b) what is the extent of service coverage in such spaces; and (c) what are the plans to ensure that the in-building service network coverage extends to such spaces, in view that many buildings situate their delivery bays at building basements.
- *63. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance in light of the increased rates of inflation experienced over the past few years, whether there are plans to revise the qualification threshold of \$1 million for GST registration.
- *64. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower what percentage of (i) new dormitories and (ii) existing dormitories have informed the Ministry of their plans to start work earlier to meet the interim standards and New Dormitory Standards, respectively, under the Dormitory Transition Scheme to improve living conditions for dormitory residents.
- *65. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Transport following the Fare Review Exercise 2024 (a) what is the estimated financial impact on public transport operators and the overall sustainability of the public transport system from deferring the maximum allowable quantum for fares; (b) how will the deferment of the remaining quantum affect the funding available for planned service improvements or infrastructure projects; (c) what is the Ministry's assessment of potential scenarios for fare adjustments in the next review; and (d) whether there will be a continued phased approach.

- *66. **Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what are the reasons that led the Public Transport Council to recommend a fare revision for bus and train fares to take effect at the end of December 2024; (b) what steps have the transport operators taken thus far to improve their service levels to commuters in light of fare revisions in the last three to five years; and (c) what are the big-ticket cost factors that the public transport operators have to watch closely in their operations.
- *67. **Ms Poh Li San:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the recent fare increase announced by the Public Transport Council (a) whether the public transport services remain economically sustainable moving forward, given that the Ministry provided an additional \$250 million subsidy this year; and (b) how does Singapore fare in terms of transport fare increases compared to other large cities with similar public transport systems such as Hong Kong, Seoul and Taipei, over the last four years.
- *68. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry has any new plans to further build trust between parents and teachers regarding children's education; and (b) what additional measures are being considered to protect teachers from harassment by parents with unreasonable demands.
- *69. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether the Police will consider restricting the number of people gathering in groups and causing congregational noise at HDB common greens during the quiet hours after 10.30 pm and before 7 am.
- *70. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in respect of a recent retrenchment exercise by a multinational technology company with a global headquarters in Singapore (a) whether the Ministry will look into how the relevant union was informed only a day in advance; (b) when was the Ministry notified of the retrenchment; (c) whether the retrenched workers' incomes are within the broad middle-income range in Singapore; and (d) how can Singapore continue to be pro-enterprise and attract investment while maintaining tripartite best practices.
- *71. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in light of the recent retrenchment exercise by a multinational technology company with its headquarters in Singapore (a) whether the Ministry will review and strengthen current protocols to better manage future retrenchments, including ensuring that unions are given more timely notice beyond just one day; and (b) what steps is the Ministry taking to enhance pro-worker guidelines that can simultaneously encourage multinational companies to maintain their presence in Singapore while safeguarding the welfare of workers.
- *72. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what are the key performance indicators used to measure the success of Integrated Facilities Management (IFM) contracts entered into by ministries; (b) how have IFM contracts improved the efficiency and quality of facilities management services; (c) whether there are provisions for contract price adjustments or cost escalation clauses to renegotiate these contracts when circumstances change; and (d) if not, what is the process for renegotiating IFM contracts.
- *73. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether there are any plans to introduce pricing guidelines for amounts that merchants may levy for the plastic bag charge.

- *74. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the disruptions affecting the MRT's Circle Line in September 2024 (a) what are the evacuation protocols in place for the affected commuters to leave the train cabins as safely and as soon as possible; (b) whether there are plans to review these protocols; (c) whether back-up power is in place so that air supply within the trains can be boosted and announcements can be made; and (d) whether preventive maintenance can be augmented to prevent such disruptions.
- *75. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether the 2% year-on-year overall increase in Singapore's total population as of June 2024 is in line with the Government's expectations of population growth rates in the next five years.
- *76. **Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry will consider offering a translation tool for digital resources such as Parent Kits and Parents Gateway to support parents and caregivers whose first language is not English.
- *77. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Health in light of the survey findings revealing that half of Singaporeans resist young-onset dementia testing even when exhibiting symptoms (a) whether the Ministry can clarify the impact of a confirmed diagnosis on insurance coverage and job prospects; (b) how may these barriers be addressed to encourage early detection and intervention; and (c) how does the Ministry plan to enhance public awareness regarding young-onset dementia, address prevalent misconceptions, and promote help-seeking behaviours for early diagnosis and support.
- *78. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the Ministry has studied if the increased salary qualification thresholds for Employment Pass and S Pass holders may have paradoxically led to a divergence in salaries paid to such work permit holders vis-à-vis Singaporeans as companies raise salaries to satisfy the qualification criteria for their existing workers.
- *79. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for National Development in view of stronger winds expected from more extreme weather conditions (a) whether the Ministry will review the regulations on panels and other attachments to buildings; and (b) how will safety checks and enforcements of such panels and attachments be enhanced.
- *80. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development in view of the Ministry not tracking the number of bonds breached, whether the Ministry has data on the number of prosecutions against parents for breach of the bond terms signed under a Care and Protection Order for each of the past five years and, if so, what is this number
- *81. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry what strategies and measures are being implemented to support tourist guides in the face of evolving challenges such as shifting tourist preferences, competition from online platforms and unlicensed tour guiding by foreign operators.
- *82. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the newly announced Bus Connectivity Enhancement Programme announced in July 2024 (a) whether LTA is prepared to engage with opposition Members of Parliament as well as Grassroots Advisers in opposition-held constituencies on bus service enhancements for taxpayer benefit; and (b) whether LTA envisages the retention or reintroduction of bus services which may be relatively underutilised but provide convenience to senior citizens especially where new MRT stations have become operational.

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- *83. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how does the Ministry police forested areas to ensure that they are not used to compromise national security; and (b) what types of illegal activities have been most commonly detected in forested areas over the past five years.
- *84. **Ms Hany Soh:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to Malaysia's Road Transport Department's (JPJ) statement on 27 September 2024 that Singapore private vehicle owners will be issued a warning for not having obtained a Vehicle Entry Permit before leaving Malaysia from 1 October 2024, whether the Ministry has engaged the Malaysian authorities to ensure Singapore's private vehicle owners do not get unduly penalised for travelling into Malaysia.
- *85. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Manpower what is the prevalence of a practice of "wage resetting" to base salaries amongst resident workers where workers' wages are reduced when a company changes its service buyer contract especially in the outsourcing sectors.
- *86. **Miss Rachel Ong:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Ministry will consider subjecting motorised Personal Mobility Aids (PMAs) that are stored in HDB flats to third-party safety testing and regular maintenance requirements to ensure safety of users and neighbours of surrounding HDB flats.
- *87. **Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Ministry will consider updating the Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment to (i) strongly encourage the provision of automatic doors with a more stringent set of criteria for any exceptions and (ii) reduce the door opening initial force for interior hinged doors from 30 Newtons to 22 Newtons in line with similar accessibility codes in Hong Kong and New Zealand.
- *88. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the target temperature set for MRT train cars and station platforms; (b) how is this temperature monitored and controlled while the trains are running; (c) in the past six months, how many feedback reports have all the train operators and LTA received regarding excessively warm train cars or platforms; and (d) which MRT line received the most of such feedback.

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

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS
Introduction of Government Bills

1. **Minister for Health:**
MediShield Life Scheme (Amendment) Bill.
2. **Minister for Sustainability and the Environment:**
Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill.
3. **Minister for Sustainability and the Environment:**
Sewerage and Drainage (Amendment) Bill.
4. **Minister for Law:**
Singapore International Commercial Court (International Committee) Bill.
5. **Minister for Law:**
Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) and Other Matters Bill.
6. **Minister for Law:**
Administration of Justice (Protection) (Amendment) Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 25/2024] – (Minister for Manpower) – Second Reading.
 2. Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Bill [Bill No. 28/2024] – (Minister for Law) – Second Reading.
 3. Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 31/2024] – (Minister for Manpower) – Second Reading.
 4. Income Tax (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 32/2024] – (Second Minister for Finance) – Second Reading.
 5. Multinational Enterprise (Minimum Tax) Bill [Bill No. 33/2024] – (Second Minister for Finance) – Second Reading.
 6. Elections (Integrity of Online Advertising) (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 29/2024] – (Minister for Digital Development and Information) – Second Reading.
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MEMORANDUM

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

Mr Raj Joshua Thomas : Progressive Wages and the Revaluing of “Low-Wage Work”.
(Nominated Member)

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance in light of a recent report which highlighted that Singapore’s average wealth has continued to rise but wealth inequality has also risen in the same period (a) what additional measures is the Government taking to address wealth inequality beyond the current Government handouts and CPF top-ups; and (b) whether there is a need to enhance the Progressive Wage Model to ensure that salaries, particularly in the lower and middle income brackets, can rise more rapidly to narrow wealth inequality.
2. **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) what is the status of the review of the charging of GST on regulatory fees by the Ministry and IRAS as well as the prescribing of non-taxable fees in subsidiary legislation; (b) whether any fees will become newly taxable as a result of the review; (c) how may this impact the public; and (d) what is the progress of the GST refunds on these fees.
3. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry (a) in the last 10 years, what has been the annual direct economic contributions of the six creative industries namely advertising, broadcasting media, publishing industries, interior, graphics and fashion design, photography, and industrial design in respect of (i) receipts (ii) value-added (iii) employment (iv) value-add per worker and (v) exports; and (b) what are the projected changes in their direct economic contributions for 2024 and 2025.
4. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry whether the Government will consider importing electricity or energy that is generated by nuclear plants from other countries.
5. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry in light of the recent decisions by some multinational companies (MNCs) to relocate their headquarters, withdraw operations or retrench workers in Singapore (a) whether the Ministry has studied the key factors driving these decisions by MNCs; (b) whether the Government’s initiatives aimed at retaining these companies have achieved their intended outcomes; and (c) whether there are concerns that the Singaporean workforce is losing its competitive edge in terms of skills compared to workers from other countries.
6. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Defence following the simultaneous explosion of foreign-made telecommunication devices in Lebanon recently (a) what are the lessons learned and security implications for Singapore; and (b) whether the Ministry, together with other Ministries and agencies, is studying and reviewing the import or use of such telecommunication devices in Singapore.
7. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Defence whether he can provide further details concerning the death of a full-time National Serviceman at Pasir Laba Camp on 27 September 2024.

8. **Dr Syed Harun Alhabsyi:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs in view of the recent armed conflict escalation in the Middle East involving Israel, Lebanon and Iran, whether the Ministry is providing additional consular support to Singapore citizens in the Middle East, especially in countries within close proximity to the conflict such as Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.
9. **Mr Mohd Fahmi Bin Aliman:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what measures are in place to prevent theft by ICA officers or other staff members at Singapore airports; (b) whether the Ministry can provide an update on the frequency of such incidents and the trend over the past five years; and (c) how frequently are background checks and internal audits conducted on ICA officers to ensure their integrity and adherence to professional standards.
10. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in the past five years, what is the annual number of (i) road traffic accidents and (ii) road deaths per billion vehicle kilometres.
11. **Mr Sharael Taha:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what is the current number of stateless residents who have lived in Singapore for more than 20 years; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider granting citizenship to stateless seniors who have resided in Singapore for over 20 years.
12. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs with regard to new permanent residencies and new citizenships granted in 2023, what is the 25th percentile, median, average, and 75th percentile of the duration in which (i) adult foreigners have resided in Singapore prior to obtaining permanent residence and (ii) adult permanent residents have held their permanent residence prior to obtaining Singapore citizenship.
13. **Ms Hany Soh:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether any applications for a licence under the Debt Collection Act 2022 (DCA) have been rejected since the commencement of the DCA on 1 December 2023; and (b) if so, how many applications have been rejected and what are the reasons.
14. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Law in each year of the last five years (a) what percentage of Good Class Bungalows are sold to trust companies; (b) what percentage of these trust companies have foreign beneficiaries; and (c) what percentage of Clearance Certificate applications by trust companies to purchase Good Class Bungalows are rejected.
15. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Law (a) in the last five years, for individuals placed under the Debt Repayment Scheme administered by the Official Assignee, what is the average (i) total unsecured debt owed (ii) total fees paid to the Official Assignee and (iii) total fees paid to third-party debt consultancies; and (b) whether the Ministry regulates the provision of such debt consulting services and their associated fees charged.
16. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Law for the past five years (a) what is the annual percentage of orders issued by the Small Claims Tribunals (SCT) that required enforcement; and (b) of these, what is the average cost for consumers to enforce the SCT order.
17. **Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Ministry will consider mandating food and beverage establishments to provide tap water free of charge for paying customers to reduce plastic waste from bottled water.

18. **Dr Syed Harun Alhabsyi:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment in view of the island-wide damage to property and environment caused by the Sumatra squall on 17 September 2024 (a) whether the Ministry will consider having precautionary warning systems or measures to educate the public in cases of such extreme weather conditions; and (b) what are the lessons from the recovery and clean-up operations that can better prepare Singapore's infrastructure for such storms in future.
19. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how are students, especially those in primary schools, equipped to deal with incidents or threats of bullying within or outside school premises; and (b) whether there is a standard whistleblowing channel or hotline for all students to report on a confidential basis regarding incidents or threats of such bullying.
20. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Education in view of the increasing severity and visibility of bullying incidents, including the use of social media to share such acts (a) how is the Character and Citizenship Education curriculum being enhanced to address bullying more explicitly; and (b) whether more should be done to equip Peer Support Leaders with the skills to intervene in and prevent bullying.
21. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) in each year of the past three years, how many students involved in bullying, both the bullies and victims, have been referred to and met with school counsellors; and (b) what specific measures are in place to ensure the psychological and emotional well-being of these students.
22. **Mr Mohd Fahmi Bin Aliman:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry can provide more details on the specific training programmes that teachers undergo to teach high-ability learners in primary schools, including the duration and content of such training; (b) how will the Ministry ensure that these trained teachers are effectively identifying and nurturing high-ability learners across diverse educational contexts; and (c) what metrics or tools are used to assess the effectiveness of the teaching strategies employed by these teachers.
23. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the reframing of the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Central Judging as the SYF Arts Presentation has achieved its intended aims for both students and educators; and (b) if so, what are the factors that are taken into consideration when assessing whether such aims have been achieved.
24. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what resources are made available by the Ministry for students keen to learn additional languages of Singaporean communities beyond their own Mother Tongue Language; (b) in the case of the Duolingo language learning app previously offered on some personal learning devices provided by the Ministry, what is the reason for Bahasa Indonesia being an option but not Singaporean Bahasa Melayu; and (c) whether there are plans to improve the available language learning resources in schools to better reflect the Singaporean language landscape.
25. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) how many social workers are currently employed by public agencies; (b) what is the gap between the desired number and actual employed number of social workers; and (c) whether an update can be provided on recent challenges and trends in hiring and retention rates for this group of employees.
26. **Dr Syed Harun Alhabsyi:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs (a) what is the anticipated timeline for the formal establishment of the Singapore College of Islamic Studies; and (b) when will it be fully operational for the intake of its inaugural batch of students.

27. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Health what is the schedule, by region and on a quarterly basis, for the anticipated completion of Active Ageing Centres that will be funded by the proposed increase in budget for this purpose.
28. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health for each year over the next five years, what are the hiring targets for (i) nurses (ii) allied health professionals and (iii) support care staff, in order to meet the healthcare workforce size of 82,000 by 2030.
29. **Dr Syed Harun Alhabsyi:** To ask the Minister for Health given the results of the National Youth Mental Health Study released in September 2024 that one in three young people reported experiencing severe or extremely severe symptoms of depression, anxiety or stress, whether the Ministry will consider (i) strengthening the Response, Early Intervention and Assessment in Community Mental Health teams to support schools better and (ii) ensuring that all restructured hospitals have psychiatric services that are equipped to manage child and adolescent cases on an outpatient basis.
30. **Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether additional steps will be taken to encourage food and beverage (F&B) establishments to display calorie and nutrition information alongside their menus; and (b) whether the Ministry is considering new regulations for F&B chains to provide such information to enable consumers to make more informed decisions in choosing healthier food.
31. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for National Development in view of stronger winds expected from more extreme weather conditions, whether the Ministry can provide an update on the transition to planting more robust tree species that are less prone to uprooting and breakage.
32. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how many escalator accidents were there in each of the last three years; (b) of the number of accidents, how many of these were due to technical issues and how many were due to users' behaviour or health condition, respectively; (c) what were their age groups; and (d) whether the Ministry will consider building more lifts, especially at public facilities to improve safety, in view of our ageing population.
33. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Multi-Generation Priority Scheme can be extended to include single unmarried children of elderly parents so that single children and their elderly parents can make joint applications for HDB flats in a BTO project and live proximate to one another.
34. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Ministry will consider according priority to senior residents relocating to new short-lease 2-room HDB Flexi flats or Community Care Apartments near to their current homes to promote successful and seamless aging within the community.
35. **Ms Hany Soh:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how does the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) decide which companies are to be selected to participate in the Annual Return of the Construction Industry survey conducted under the Statistics Act 1973; and (b) how can the BCA support these companies that are required under law to furnish specific information, especially when there are cost implications to them.

36. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth for each year from 2021 to date in 2024 (a) what is the number of fitness injuries reported by users of ActiveSG gyms; (b) what is the distribution of such injuries by users aged (i) 12 to 17 years (ii) 18 to 54 years and (iii) 55 years and above; and (c) what measures are in place to educate and supervise newer users of ActiveSG gyms on the appropriate use of fitness and strength training equipment to prevent fitness injuries.
37. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) whether the Ministry tracks the number of Chinese audience members who attend the performances, shows or exhibitions of arts groups of ethnic minorities who conduct such activities (i) showcasing their respective minority cultures or (ii) in a language other than English or Mandarin; and (b) if so, what are the recent statistics.
38. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) whether the Ministry tracks the number of non-Chinese audience members who attend the performances, shows or exhibitions of Chinese arts groups who conduct such activities (i) showcasing Chinese culture; or (ii) in a language other than English; and (b) if so, what are the recent statistics.
39. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) apart from acting on complaints received, whether the Ministry conducts proactive inspections to ensure that food delivery riders working for the major food delivery platforms as freelancers are legitimate workers who are Singapore citizens or permanent residents; (b) if so, how often are these checks conducted; and (c) what is the total number of violations or arrests that have resulted from such checks in the past six months.
40. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry will extend maternity protection to Singaporeans engaged in non-standard forms of employment such as those under dependent self-employment to provide some recourse for termination of contracts on grounds related to pregnancy; and (b) if not, when will the Ministry consider doing so.
41. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Manpower for the past five years, what is the annual number of cases of elderly Singaporean citizens living in HDB executive apartments or maisonettes who have been successful in their applications or appeals to be eligible for the Silver Support Scheme.
42. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry has data on the current number of older employees who are not covered by any medical insurance provided by their employers; and (b) whether the Ministry has plans to work with insurers to provide medical insurance coverage for older workers who work past their retirement and re-employment age and, if so, what are the plans.
43. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower for each year in the past five years, how many full-time resident employees aged 25 to 64 earning (i) below \$2,000 per month (ii) \$2,000 to \$4,999 per month and (iii) \$5,000 and above per month, received only seven days of paid annual leave in their first year of employment respectively.
44. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what are the current wage convergence targets for the 20th percentile of income earners; and (b) what is the expected path of convergence of wage levels for the 20th percentile of income earners between 2023 and 2030.
45. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what are the top 10 bus services near stations affected by the East-West MRT Line disruption on 25 September 2024 that saw (i) a week-on-week increase in ridership and (ii) the highest ridership levels; and (b) whether these bus services will be prioritised for future service enhancements and/or excluded from bus service rationalisations.

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46. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the end-of-life date for the 48 first-generation MRT trains which have been in service for 35 years; (b) whether these trains currently pose increased derailment or safety risks while carrying passengers; (c) what is the failure rate of these trains compared to newer trains; (d) why are these trains not replaced earlier; and (e) how do their (i) maintenance regimen and (ii) maintenance costs differ from that of newer train models.
47. **Dr Syed Harun Alhabsyi:** To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the East-West MRT Line disruption in September 2024 (a) whether there are vulnerability concerns for further rail fractures in other parts of the MRT line; (b) what steps are being taken to reasonably prevent similar disruptions in future; and (c) what are the lessons learnt from the contingency responses employed to further minimise disruption for commuter journeys, especially during peak periods.
48. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the provisional mean kilometres between failures (MKBF) for the second and third quarters of 2024 for MRT trains across each line; (b) whether there are benchmark MKBF utilised by the Ministry for assessing the reliability of each line and, if so, whether they can be disclosed publicly; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider imposing more elaborate inspection requirements on MRT lines that have persistently lower MKBF than the overall 12-month moving average across the train network.
49. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what percentage of cycling lanes that run parallel to footpaths are currently fully grade-separated; (b) whether there are plans for all cycling lanes to be grade-separated from footpaths; and (c) if not, why not.
50. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether LTA has conducted any studies or assessments for the projected level of noise from the train tracks for the Jurong Region Line (JRL); and (b) whether the combined noise levels from the JRL, North-South Line and LRT Lines in Choa Chu Kang Central are expected to be within the recommended limits set by NEA for a residential area.
51. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether there is an update on the trial to create priority carriages on the MRT for less mobile and vulnerable commuters such as seniors and persons with disabilities; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider implementing such priority carriages sooner, to aid passengers who require the use of personal mobility aids on the MRT, particularly during peak hours.
52. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the workplace safety incidents at LTA worksites over the past year, including the incident on 17 September 2024 at the North-South Corridor worksite in Lentor Avenue where two workers lost their lives (a) what are the existing safety measures and protocols between LTA and its contractors and subcontractors to prevent workplace safety incidents at LTA worksites; and (b) whether the Ministry plans to impose enhanced safety standards and measures for its contractors and subcontractors at all LTA worksites.
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