

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER
WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2025

No. 153

11.00 am

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether an update can be provided on the lessons learnt from the recent MRT service disruptions on the North-South Line on 7 February 2025, North-East Line on 10 February 2025 and Circle Line on 11 February 2025; and (b) what are the actions that the Ministry will take to prevent a repeat of similar breakdowns.
- *2. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether any of the recent MRT disruptions leading to delays in MRT services on the North-South Line, North-East Line and Circle Line in February 2025 were caused by a maintenance issues; and (b) what steps will be taken to ensure that similar incidents can be minimised or avoided in future.
- *3. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in light of a second instance of assault at a place of worship in less than half a year (a) how does the Ministry plan to strengthen collaboration between religious institutions, their surrounding communities, and security agencies to enhance the early detection and prevention of potential security threats; and (b) whether the Ministry has plans to take additional steps to provide further assurance to the public of their personal safety at places of worship.
- *4. **Miss Rachel Ong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in view of the rise of extremist threats, whether our schools, places of worship, hospitals and public institutions are being prepared to respond to potential terrorist attacks.
- *5. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what feedback has the Ministry received from stakeholders to (i) improve the safety of workers transported on the back of lorries and (ii) ban the transport of workers on the back of lorries; and (b) how does the Ministry intend to address such feedback.
- *6. **Miss Rachel Ong:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether an assessment of the effectiveness of the Circle of Friends (CoF) initiative in supporting social interactions of students with special educational needs has been conducted; (b) if so, what is the basis for assessing its effectiveness; (c) whether there are differences in its effectiveness between neurodivergent students and students with physical and sensory disabilities that are visible; and (d) whether CoF is implemented in every secondary school that has neurodivergent students.
- *7. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development what protections or assistance can the Ministry provide to social workers from social service organisations when they are faced with threats or harassment arising from the cases they handled, besides making reports of the threats and harassment to the Police.

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- *8. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what measures are in place to prevent and mitigate deliberate vehicular ramming attacks in high-footfall areas, such as nightlife districts and public events; (b) whether the Ministry has conducted any risk assessments on the likelihood of such attacks in Singapore; and (c) if such assessments have been done, what were the key findings and action points.
- *9. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for National Development in view of the sustained increase in HDB resale prices despite cooling measures (a) what factors, beyond the scarcity of flats reaching their Minimum Occupation Period (MOP), are driving the demand for resale flats; (b) when will there be a significant increase in flats reaching their MOP; (c) whether additional cooling measures for the HDB resale market will be implemented; and (d) how many private property owners also own HDB flats and whether they will be mandated to release these flats.
- *10. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how do the salaries and benefits for nurses in Singapore compare to those offered in other countries such as Australia; (b) whether any studies have been conducted to determine if wages and working conditions are the primary factors for nurses leaving Singapore; and (c) if so, what are the findings and how does the Ministry plan to address them.
- *11. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore will be conducting a review of existing flight safety and ground control procedures at Changi Airport and Seletar Airport in light of recent unfortunate and tragic aviation incidents overseas; and (b) what additional measures are being considered to further enhance aviation safety in Singapore.
- *12. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how many Police reports have been made in 2023 and 2024 regarding fraudulent or counterfeit merchandise sold on e-commerce platforms where the seller and buyer were both in Singapore; (b) what were the considerations for such cases being deemed as commercial disputes rather than instances of cheating or scams; and (c) what recourse is available for affected buyers.
- *13. **Ms Ng Ling Ling:** To ask the Minister for National Development with regard to feedback received by HDB from residents on suspected excessive hoarding in a neighbour's flat (a) what is the protocol for HDB officers to verify and ascertain if the excessive hoarding is true; (b) what is the existing coordination protocol between HDB and SCDF under the inter-agency Hoarding Management Core Group to mitigate fire risks associated with reported excessive hoarding in HDB flats; and (c) whether the Ministry will review and enhance both protocols.
- *14. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether an update can be provided on the Ministry's plans for 2025 regarding humanitarian aid for the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.
- *15. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in view of the two-year recidivism rate for inmates released from drug rehabilitation centres (DRCs) reaching the highest since 2015 (a) what factors have contributed to the rise in the recidivism rate; (b) whether the Ministry is reviewing the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes within DRCs; and (c) where do drug abusers obtain their supplies from and whether the increased accessibility to drugs has contributed to the increase in recidivism rate.

- *16. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Ministry will consider expanding the Taxi Subsidy Scheme or introducing additional measures to cap surcharges, so that motorised wheelchair users who need to travel for purposes other than to school, work or employment-related training when public transport is unavailable have more affordable travel options; and (b) whether the Ministry has studied models from cities such as New York and Dubai where wheelchair-accessible transport services operate round the clock at standard taxi or ride-hailing fares for persons with disabilities.
- *17. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether the Ministry will consider reimbursing the Government-Paid Paternity Leave (GPPL) based on the average of a person's gross monthly salary over the past few months before the commencement of the leave; and (b) if not, whether the Ministry will consider including certain incentive payments and allowances, which are currently excluded, into the reimbursement calculation of the GPPL.
- *18. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the conditions for purchasing a short-lease flexi HDB unit include any conditions for existing HDB leaseholders with regard to the sale price of their flats.
- *19. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry has received reports about school bus attendants being required to install and use mobile apps for their duties, such as a school transport app, and not having been reimbursed for (i) mobile phone purchases or (ii) mobile data used for such duties; (b) if so, how many reports have been received; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider providing support to affected school bus attendants.
- *20. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance what proportion of property taxes collected in (i) 2005 (ii) 2010 (iii) 2015 (iv) 2020 and (v) 2024 are from owner-occupied properties, respectively.
- *21. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether vendors providing motorised mobility devices eligible for subsidy schemes such as the Seniors' Mobility and Enabling Fund or the Assistive Technology Fund are required to maintain adequate supply chains for replacement parts such as device batteries; and (b) whether such vendors are subject to responsiveness standards for device repairs including parts replacements.
- *22. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs with regard to assets surrendered to the state in connection with the \$3 billion money laundering case, as of 31 December 2024 (a) what is the total value of the assets surrendered in cash and non-cash assets respectively; (b) what percentage of the non-cash assets have been disposed; (c) what is the total cost incurred in safekeeping the assets; and (d) what is the total value of assets that have been paid into the Consolidated Fund.
- *23. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether LTA can consider increasing the frequency of Bus Service 112 or adding another bus service for Hougang Avenue 7 to handle the additional commuter load arising from new residents who shifted into the area in the past two years.
- *24. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what economic and non-economic benefits can Singapore expect to gain from serving as the filming location for the band Coldplay's music video for "Man In The Moon (2024)", in partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board; and (b) whether there are any similar collaborations with international musical acts planned for the immediate future.

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- *25. **Miss Rachel Ong:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) for each year from 2022 to 2024, what is the total number of students studying in schools and Institutes of Higher Learning who are caught for using or possessing vapes; (b) whether the Ministry now has data on the percentage of students who reoffended after being fined for first-time vaping violations in this time period; and (c) if so, based on this data, whether the Government will be reviewing the penalties for the illegal use of vapes for first-time offenders and reoffenders.
- *26. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what proportion and which of ICA services accept only digital applications; (b) in the past year, how many persons have approached or been referred to ICA for assistance due to their inability to navigate the digital application process, including because of their lack of digital literacy, SingPass or e-payment facilities; and (c) whether ICA has a structured process, including an in-person digital support helpdesk, to assist such applicants and ensure that no applicant is left behind due to digital barriers.
- *27. **Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether LTA provides guidelines for colour coding of lines for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system to further guide LRT commuters as they use different lines such as the East and West loops for Sengkang and Punggol.
- *28. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Ministry will consider more active engagement of private estates on solutions such as fumigation for areas with a higher risk of dengue transmission and mosquito breeding.

* 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. **Second Minister for Finance:**

Supply Bill.

(President's recommendation signified).

2. **Second Minister for Finance:**

Supplementary Supply (FY 2024) Bill.

(President's recommendation signified).

ORDER OF THE DAY**1. BUDGET STATEMENT:**

Resumption of Debate on Question (18 February 2025) (Allotted Day) –

“That Parliament approves the financial policy of the Government for the financial year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.”. – (Prime Minister and Minister for Finance).

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

- 1. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether foreign companies in Singapore can direct expatriate staff to pay income tax to their home countries for incomes derived from Singapore-based work; (b) how does this align with existing avoidance of double taxation agreements which determine an expatriate's tax residency based on qualifying conditions; (c) what is the estimated tax revenue loss arising from expatriates paying their income tax of their home countries; and (d) what measures are in place to prevent such tax revenue loss.
- 2. Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry of the 68,400 resident households that were living in landed properties in 2023, what is the proportion that currently live in Good Class Bungalows.
- 3. Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Ministry will consider intensifying its efforts to collaborate with local food and beverage operators to promote local and heritage food in Singapore and overseas, especially in light of celebrating SG60; (b) if not, why not; and (c) what are the Ministry's plans to support local food and beverage operators in enhancing their appeal to local diners to strengthen the viability of the sector.
- 4. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry in view of the report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations on a decline in global food commodity prices in January 2025 (a) whether Singapore consumers can expect a corresponding decrease in food prices; (b) if not, what are the factors contributing to food prices maintaining at current levels; and (c) whether there are measures to ensure that suppliers pass on the reduced prices down the chain to consumers.
- 5. Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what is the total area of JTC-managed land that is currently occupied by single-storey buildings such as terrace workshops, industrial shops and workshops; and (b) whether there are plans to intensify land use on these sites by developing high-rise multi-user buildings.
- 6. Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Law (a) whether new leases will be offered to the golf clubs whose leases expire before or in 2030; and (b) whether the land occupied by these golf clubs will be considered for competing land uses such as housing.
- 7. Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment in respect of Singapore's 2024 Biennial Transparency Report on its greenhouse gas inventory and progress to reduce national emissions and in which Singapore estimated the use of 2.51 million tonnes per annum of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) to transfer greenhouse gas mitigation performance to other countries in order to meet its emission reduction commitments from 2021 to 2030, where does the Government plan to obtain the ITMOs from.

8. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether stain and littering cases have decreased at HDB towns in 2024, given that 2024 was designated as the Year of Public Hygiene; (b) whether towns that recorded high observations of stain and littering in 2024 also recorded higher observations of rodent activity; (c) whether the Ministry will consider working with other Government agencies to track rodent activity as a measure of estate cleanliness; and (d) whether the Ministry will intensify littering deterrence efforts in towns with higher rodent activity.
9. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the Ministry will be evaluating the extent to which the Farm-to-Table Recognition Programme has increased diners' preference for local produce; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider more measures to improve the affordability of local produce for new local food and beverage enterprises.
10. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for Education in each year from 2018 to 2024 (a) how many individuals have successfully applied for the ITE Work-Study Diploma programme; (b) how many individuals have been terminated by their employers; (c) what recourse is available for individuals who have been terminated by their employers midway through the apprenticeship programme; and (d) how many individuals have been allowed to continue the programme with a different employer.
11. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether the Ministry monitors the quality and portion size of the meals served in student care centres (SSC) and if they adhere to the Singapore Standard 692 (SS692) on Guidelines for Nutrition and Food Services for Infants and Children; (b) if so, what are the Ministry's observations and, if not, why not; (c) what proportion of SSCs currently serve meals that adhere to SS692; and (d) how does the Ministry plan to nudge SSCs that do not adhere to SS692.
12. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether section 8(3)(ba) of the Immigration Act will be reviewed to allow foreigners living with HIV with an undetectable viral load to work and live in Singapore; and (b) if not, why not.
13. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how does the Ministry determine whether debarking or declawing procedures have been carried out by veterinarians with due justification; (b) whether veterinarians are required to keep records of the justification for carrying out debarking and declawing procedures; and (c) apart from receiving reports on veterinarians carrying out such procedures without due justification, how does the Ministry enforce the requirement on veterinarians to carry out such procedures only as a last resort.
14. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for National Development in each year from 2021 to 2024, how many families have benefitted from the HDB Fresh Start Housing Scheme.
15. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the total land area set aside for the 39 Good Class Bungalow Areas; and (b) how are the number of Good Class Bungalow Areas, land areas and locations determined.
16. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for National Development for each HDB flat sales exercise since August 2023, what is the percentage of first-timer applicants who do not select a BTO flat among (i) applicants with a queue number larger than the available flat supply and (ii) applicants with a queue number smaller than the available flat supply, respectively.

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17. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for National Development since the launch of open booking of HDB flats in June 2019 (a) what is the number of applications in each exercise; (b) what is the median number of minutes between the opening of applications to the time when all selection appointments are taken up; (c) whether HDB will consider switching from a first-come-first-served system for selection appointment to a randomised balloting system; and (d) if not, why not.
18. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) in the past five years, how many work-induced musculoskeletal disorders are reported; (b) what types of musculoskeletal disorders are reported by (i) doctors (ii) employers and (iii) workers respectively; (c) what interventions will the Ministry implement to protect (i) senior workers (ii) persons with disabilities and (iii) workers who use the computer for prolonged hours, from work-induced musculoskeletal disorders; (d) whether the Ministry has recourse for an employer's lack of prevention measures made available to such groups; and (e) if so, what are they.
19. **Miss Rachel Ong:** To ask the Minister for Manpower as part of the Settling-in Programme for first-time migrant domestic workers in Singapore (a) whether a briefing is provided on the legal consequences of criminal acts related to elder and child abuse prior to their deployment; and (b) whether helplines for mental health support is provided.
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