

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

**ORDER PAPER
THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 2025**

No. 159

10.00 am

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs (a) what does Singapore consider the key priorities for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in its relations with the United States (US) under the new Trump administration, bearing in mind the US President's absence from ASEAN summits during his first term as President; and (b) what messages will Singapore convey to its US counterparts during the ASEAN country dialogues and at the East Asia Summit under the chairmanship of Malaysia.
- *2. Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether NEA has information on what types of waste materials are stored at the warehouse at 11 Kranji Crescent that caught fire on 19 February 2025; (b) whether the four-day fire at the warehouse has exposed residents nearby to toxic pollutants; and (c) if so, what pollutants have residents been exposed to as a result of the fire.
- *3. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether he can elaborate on how our pandemic preparedness plan has been updated to include large-scale influenza outbreaks; (b) specifically, what measures are in place to handle a sudden spike in infections; and (c) how does the Ministry ensure sufficient healthcare capacity during such surges.
- *4. Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what measures are taken to stop the illegal practice of carpooling arrangements set up via online chatgroups; and (b) whether the Ministry will embark on a public education campaign on allowable forms of carpooling in Singapore.
- *5. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development in view of the challenges faced by some single parents and individuals with disabilities in renewing their financial assistance under Comcare schemes (a) whether the Ministry can provide details on the efforts to streamline the Social Service Offices' processes to ensure timelier responses for such renewal applications; and (b) whether there are plans to implement an automatic renewal system for cases with chronic or permanent medical conditions.
- *6. Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what is the Singapore Civil Defence Force's policy for dealing with offenders who have been repeatedly issued notices of offence for severe breaches of fire safety regulations.
- *7. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether the Ministry will consider introducing an extension of the GST Voucher scheme to assist more middle-income households in view of rising living costs and household expenses; (b) whether the Ministry will review the assessable income threshold to qualify for GST-related assistance; and (c) whether there are plans to offer additional support for families with children who fall within the qualifying income threshold.

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- *8. Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the Ministry's assessment of Singaporeans' current preparedness for retiring gracefully and with dignity; (b) whether the Government can consider using recent budget surpluses to provide a one-time top-up of \$24,000 to the CPF Retirement Account (RA) for Singaporeans aged 55 years and above and to do the same for all reaching that age in future; and (c) whether the Government has looked at ways to increase the annual interest rate on RA to 6%.
- *9. Mr Xie Yao Quan:** To ask the Minister for Education in view of the results of the Joint Autonomous Universities Graduate Employment Survey 2024, whether the Ministry will consider further measures to boost the proportion of fresh graduates securing full-time permanent jobs after graduation.

* 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

Business Motion

1. Leader of the House:

PROCEEDINGS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: That, notwithstanding Standing Order 91(2), the Ministerial Statement on "Review into the Public Disclosure of Full NRIC Numbers on Bizfile People Search" be taken before the resumption of proceedings on the Estimates of Expenditure for FY2025/2026 at this day's sitting.

ORDER OF THE DAY

1. Estimates for the financial year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 (Paper Cmd. 32 of 2025) – Committee of Supply (Progress: 5 March 2025) (5th Allotted Day).

Resumption of Debate on Question (5 March 2025)

“That the total sum to be allocated for Head V of the Estimates be reduced by \$100.” – (Mr Liang Eng Hwa).

[For amendments to be moved in the Committee of Supply, see Supplement No. 26 dated 28 February 2025.]

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

1. Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security:

Review into the Public Disclosure of Full NRIC Numbers on Bizfile People Search.

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance what is the Ministry's basis for disallowing expenditure on antiques and fine art under the section 14N deduction regime of the Income Tax Act.
2. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) what is the total value of donations made to arts, cultural and heritage Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs) that have qualified for the 250% tax deduction under the Income Tax Act in the past five years; and (b) what proportion of all tax-deductible donations to IPCs do these contributions represent over the same period.
3. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance what key factors does the Ministry consider when assessing whether a particular industry merits additional or incentivised income tax deductions, exemptions or reliefs, beyond the standard treatment provided for in the Income Tax Act.
4. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry (a) to date, how much investment has been channelled into arts-related businesses in Singapore as a result of incentives offered under the Global Investor Programme (GIP); and (b) what proportion of total GIP-related investments does this represent.
5. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the nutritional value of food prepared is a criteria for the licensing of a food caterer for workers living in a dormitory; and (b) if not, whether the Ministry will consider working with the Ministry of Manpower to look into incorporating requirements on nutritional value for the catered food of workers in dormitories.
6. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Ministry is considering designating more areas as "No Smoking Zones".
7. **Ms Foo Mee Har:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how has Singapore been able to attract international students to its Autonomous Universities for postgraduate studies over the past five years; (b) whether the Ministry has data comparing this to Singapore-based international institutes such as the Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD) Business School and the École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales (ESSEC) Business School; and (c) which disciplines do these foreign students come to Singapore to pursue.
8. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether the Ministry is studying the possibility of providing direct caregiver grants to address the financial insecurity and retirement inadequacy that some caregivers face; and (b) what other plans does the Ministry have to support caregivers.
9. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development whether an update can be provided on the review into making the "Children in Between" programme which helps both parent and child cope better with the impact of the divorce, mandatory.
10. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health in each year for the past five years, how many couples have for the purpose of Assisted Conception Procedures utilised (i) below \$5,000 (ii) \$5,000 to below \$10,000 (iii) \$10,000 to below \$15,000 and (iv) the maximum of \$15,000 from their MediSave accounts.

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11. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what protocols are in place to prevent the cross-border spread of influenza into Singapore, particularly through high-traffic areas like airports; and (b) whether there are plans to enhance screening measures or implement traveller advisories when significant outbreaks occur in the region.
 12. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health with regard to the recent introduction of influenza vaccination services by trained community pharmacists in retail pharmacies (a) how does the Ministry plan to assess its effectiveness; and (b) whether there are plans to expand this service to more locations based on initial outcomes.
 13. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether there are any updates on the status of the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Design Guidelines and Good Practice Guide for Creative Hoardings.
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