FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE (SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER MONDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2024

No. 140 **12 noon** 1

OUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment in light of recent reports on mass food poisoning cases (a) what targeted measures are being implemented to enhance food safety standards; and (b) whether the Ministry will review the adequacy of penalties for food hygiene violations, particularly for those that cater food to vulnerable groups like the elderly and children.
- *2. Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in light of the case of a foreign preacher who entered Singapore using a passport with a different name, what are the lessons learnt to increase border security, including the usage of biometric data or other technological tools.
- *3. Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in light of the recent case of a foreign preacher delivering an illegal sermon in a dormitory in Tuas, what are the rules governing the use of foreign worker dormitories for events involving speakers or religious preachers.
- *4. Mr Yip Hon Weng: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in view of the undetected entry of an extremist preacher on 9 August 2024 (a) how does the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) mitigate the risk of individuals using fraudulent documents to enter Singapore, especially with increased automation at immigration checkpoints; (b) beyond the use of biometrics, what other safeguards, such as equipping frontline personnel with lists of individuals of concern, are in place to identify dangerous individuals; and (c) what concrete steps will ICA take to enhance the detection of such individuals.
- *5. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how effective are the measures deployed by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority to detect and prevent undesirable travellers from entering Singapore by using a valid passport but with a different name; and (b) how prevalent have such attempts been made in the past three years.
- *6. Mr Pritam Singh: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether the Bangladeshi religious preacher who entered and delivered a sermon in Singapore on 9 August 2024 is on any watchlist in the possession of Home Team security agencies.
- *7. Mr Ang Wei Neng: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the Ministry can provide an update on the investigation into the case of a Bangladeshi preacher giving illegal sermons at a dormitory in Tuas; (b) whether any person has been detained in relation to the said incident; and (c) how many times has the Bangladeshi preacher entered Singapore in the last 10 years and how many times has he preached in Singapore.

- *8. Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the Ministry will be taking steps to ensure that dormitory owners comply with all rules and regulations before permitting foreign speakers from conducting talks or programmes to migrant workers residing in their dormitories; (b) to date, how many cases of foreign visitors who have conducted an event without valid permits have been detected in foreign worker dormitories; and (c) what are some of the penalties in place to deal with the dormitory owners when such incidents occur.
- *9. Mr Liang Eng Hwa: To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what are the basis and considerations in the design of the SkillsFuture Jobseeker Support Scheme; (b) how will the assessment be done as to whether individuals applying to the scheme meet the conditions required; and (c) whether there will be avenues for appeals.
- *10. Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry: To ask the Minister for Manpower whether recipients under the SkillsFuture Jobseeker Support scheme will benefit from other forms of short-term financial assistance from the Ministry of Social and Family Development or that provided at the constituency level.
- *11. Mr Leong Mun Wai: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the number and percentage of social visit pass holders from China who have been arrested has increased since the 30-day visa exemption arrangement became effective on 9 February 2024; and (b) whether the ability of all foreigners to enter via automated lanes at Changi Airport without presenting themselves before an immigration officer since May 2024 has increased the risk of persons who are not bona fide travellers entering Singapore.
- *12. Mr Yip Hon Weng: To ask the Minister for Health with monkeypox (mpox) declared by the World Health Organisation as a public health emergency of international concern (a) whether the Ministry can provide an update on the characteristics of the virus and how it is evolving; (b) what are the border and social measures to deal with the situation; and (c) whether the Ministry has adequate mpox vaccines for our population.
- *13. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Health in light of the recent rise in monkeypox (mpox) cases in Africa (a) what protocols are in place for screening and monitoring travellers from regions with known mpox outbreaks, especially given the potential for cross-border transmission; and (b) what measures are being implemented to enhance public awareness of (i) mpox symptoms (ii) transmission modes and (iii) preventive practices in Singapore.
- *14. Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye: To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry can provide an update on the local mpox situation; (b) whether mpox poses a severe health risk to vulnerable residents such as seniors and children; and (c) whether there is a need for a nationwide rollout of mpox vaccines for these vulnerable residents.
- *15. **Ms Hany Soh:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the Ministry's strategy for preventing and mitigating the spread of mpox in Singapore; and (b) what are the applicable precautions and lessons that have been learnt from our whole-of-society effort against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *16. Mr Yip Hon Weng: To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment regarding the recent record-breaking hawker stall rent exceeding \$10,000 per month (a) whether this signifies a trend of escalating hawker stall rentals; and (b) what impact will such a trend have on food affordability and accessibility for Singaporeans.

- *17. Ms Jessica Tan Soon Neo: To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether there will be a review on the coverage adequacy of MediShield Life to ensure that patients get appropriate treatment; and (b) whether more advisory support can be provided for policyholders, especially seniors, in the selection and scope of coverage for Integrated Shield Plan to minimise unnecessary coverage and to ensure that they have adequate health insurance coverage to pay for their medical bills when they need it.
- *18. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Transport what is the Government's assessment on whether the Point-to-Point Transport sector's current capacity is sustainable in the long term.
- *19. Ms See Jinli Jean: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Government monitors the trend in the number of drivers in the Point-to-Point (P2P) sector on the road in the past year; and (b) if so, what is its assessment on how the supply of P2P drivers compares with the demand for their services.
- *20. Ms Yeo Wan Ling: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Ministry monitors the earnings of point-to-point (P2P) taxi and private hire car drivers; (b) if so, what is the average trip fare earned by such drivers in the second quarter of 2024; and (c) how does this compare to previous quarters in 2023.
- *21. Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan: To ask the Minister for Education in respect of the recent cybersecurity incident involving the Mobile Guardian Device Management Application which has affected students in Singapore (a) what is the Ministry doing to help students who have had their study notes wiped out; (b) whether the Ministry has reviewed such software installed in tablets used by students to ensure that similar incidents do not recur; and (c) what necessary action will the Ministry take against the supplier of the software.
- *22. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) why was Mobile Guardian's device management app continued to be used after its data security breach in April 2024 which caused the exfiltration of personal data of parents and staff from 127 schools; (b) whether contingency plans were instituted prior to the loss of internet access and classroom materials from students' personal learning devices in July 2024 and the cybersecurity incident causing students' devices to be remotely wiped in August 2024; and (c) whether affected students are adequately supported.
- *23. Mr Darryl David: To ask the Minister for Education with regard to the recent cybersecurity incident involving the Mobile Guardian Device Management Application that has affected students in Singapore (a) whether an update can be provided on how the Ministry is helping students who have been affected; and (b) what steps are being taken to ensure that similar incidents do not occur again in the future.
- *24. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Education following the cybersecurity incident involving the Mobile Guardian application (a) what targeted support is being offered to affected students experiencing distress, particularly those with existing mental health conditions; (b) for students whose data is unrecoverable, how is the Ministry assisting them to prepare for their upcoming examinations and ensuring their access to adequate learning materials; and (c) whether examination grades for the affected students will be moderated this year.
- *25. Mr Christopher de Souza: To ask the Minister for Education whether there will be a review of the usage of technology by our students after the global cyber-security breach of the Mobile Guardian Device Management Application that affected our secondary students.

- *26. Mr Christopher de Souza: To ask the Minister for Education whether there will be a review done of our students' usage of technology for learning to assess if there has been an over-reliance on technology to the detriment of our students, including losing learning notes that the students have recorded and kept on their school-issued devices.
- *27. Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong: To ask the Minister for Education (a) on what date did the Ministry first become aware of security vulnerabilities in the Mobile Guardian system; (b) what immediate steps were taken within the first 24 hours upon discovery; and (c) whether the vulnerability was immediately verified and patched, bearing in mind its critical nature and ease of exploitation and, if not, why not.
- *28. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song: To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether there is an update to the number of students in Singapore who had their devices wiped remotely as a result of the Mobile Guardian cybersecurity breach in August 2024 and, if so, how many; (b) how many students were unable to recover their data; (c) what impact did this incident have on these students' preparation for weighted assessments and examinations; (d) whether the Ministry has any backups of students' data; and (e) if not, why not.
- *29. Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Minister for Education (a) how are schools managing the devices of students after the Mobile Guardian Device Management Application was removed from their devices following the security breach in August 2024; (b) whether the Ministry has plans to involve parents more in the management of their children's devices; and (c) what specific steps will the Ministry take to empower parents with the knowledge and tools to effectively manage their children's devices.
- *30. Ms See Jinli Jean: To ask the Minister for Health (a) how may taxi and private hire vehicle drivers report vaping in their vehicles by passengers; and (b) what workplace protection will the Ministry avail to such drivers in order to alleviate worries about negative repercussion or penalty on their livelihoods.
- *31. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Ministry will consider having or increasing penalties to prevent the misuse of personal mobility aids (PMAs) by able-bodied persons.
- *32. Mr Alex Yam Ziming: To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Ministry will consider implementing the guidelines as recommended by the Active Mobility Advisory Panel earlier, considering the increasing number of reported incidents between errant personal mobility aid users and other pedestrians and road users.
- *33. Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether an update can be provided on LTA's efforts since March 2024 to prepare for the enforcement of new regulations for the use of personal mobility aids (PMAs) in 2025; (b) what efforts have been expended to engage current owners who will have to give up their PMAs under the new regulations; and (c) whether any efforts have been made to engage retailers to stop selling PMAs to buyers who will not be allowed to use PMAs under the new regulations.
- *34. Mr Xie Yao Quan: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) in 2023, how many personal mobility aids (PMAs) have been impounded for being non-compliant with technical standards; (b) how many PMAs have been impounded because of egregious behaviour by the user such as riding on roads and reckless riding; and (c) what challenges does LTA face in enforcing against non-compliant PMAs and errant PMA users.
- *35. **Ms Foo Mee Har:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the increase in total housing grants to \$230,000 for eligible first-timer families who buy a resale HDB flat will lead to higher resale prices of HDB flats as sellers may demand more in light of the increased support.

- *36. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis: To ask the Minister for National Development for first-time homebuyers who obtained a HDB housing loan since 30 September 2022, what is the number and percentage of loans that have a loan-to-value ratio of (i) 80 per cent (ii) between 75 and 80 per cent and (iii) less than 75 per cent, broken down by the flat type being financed.
- *37. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the decomposition of the HDB Resale Price Index by flat type in the year-to-date and the last five years; (b) what is the average increase in HDB resale flat prices by flat type in the year-to-date and in each year of the last five years; and (c) what are the reasons for the differences in price increases across the flat types.
- *38. Miss Rachel Ong: To ask the Minister for Digital Development and Information (a) what measures are in place to ensure that the collection of biometric data of residents using Worldcoin Orbs is protected against the data being misused or resold; and (b) whether the collection of biometric data by private entities is or will be regulated.
- *39. Mr Mark Lee: To ask the Minister for Digital Development and Information (a) how is the Government addressing the risks of scams and fraudulent activities that can result from the misuse of biometric data by private entities; (b) what regulatory frameworks are in place or being considered to oversee and monitor the activities of such entities to ensure compliance with data protection laws and standards; and (c) what steps are being taken to educate the public about the potential risks of sharing their biometric data with these entities.
- *40. Mr Mark Lee: To ask the Minister for Digital Development and Information how is the Government collaborating with international counterparts to ensure a cohesive and robust approach to managing and mitigating the risks associated with biometric data collection technologies by private entities.
- *41. Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether the Ministry intends to develop a "National Strategy to Countering Violent Extremism" to further strengthen the SGSecure framework.
- *42. Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what whole-of-Government strategies are in place to assist and prevent radicalisation of young people in Singapore.
- *43. Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what programmes or resources are in place to help community organisations in Singapore (i) recognise early signs of radicalisation in young people and (ii) support young people who are at risk of radicalisation or are exhibiting signs of radicalisation.
- *44. Mr Desmond Choo: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what measures are implemented in schools to prevent self-radicalisation amongst youths; (b) whether such measures have been effective; (c) whether the Online Safety Act has been effective in protecting youths in Singapore from harmful content that can cause self-radicalisation; and (d) if not, what further measures will the Ministry implement to guard against self-radicalisation, especially amongst youths.
- *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. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the outcome of investigations into the death of an allegedly unattended corgi at a grooming salon on 24 July 2024; and (b) whether lessons can be drawn from safety practices in other sectors.
- *47. Ms Yeo Wan Ling: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Ministry will consider imposing heavier penalties for acts of negligence causing pet deaths at grooming facilities; and (b) whether there is a licensing regime governing individuals or corporate bodies offering pet grooming services.
- *48. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether there are measures in place to prevent individuals who have been found to be negligent in the handling of pets in the course of providing grooming services from reoffending; and (b) whether there are plans to implement licensing requirements for pet groomers in a manner similar to pet breeders and boarders.
- *49. **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.
- *50. Mr Christopher de Souza: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry why electricity and gas tariffs have increased for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024 despite the drop in oil and gas prices globally.
- *51. Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) what specific criteria and checks are used to determine and monitor a Permanent Secretary's eligibility to sit on a company board; (b) who is responsible for making, reviewing, and reassessing these appointments; (c) how frequent are the appointments re-evaluated for potential conflicts of interest; (d) in the past five years, how many times have these checks identified and prevented a potential conflict; and (e) whether the results of these checks are made public and, if not, why not.
- *52. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang: To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) how many charities have been invited to participate in the Overseas Humanitarian Assistance Tax Deduction Scheme (OHAS) which will be piloted from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028; and (b) what are the criteria for determining which charities qualify to participate in the OHAS pilot.
- *53. Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant: To ask the Minister for Health (a) what efforts are being taken by the Ministry and its agencies to reduce the gap between the health-span and lifespan of Singaporeans; (b) whether, in the Ministry's assessment, employers have a role towards improving the health-span of Singaporeans; and (c) if so, how.
- *54. Ms Mariam Jaafar: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) in the past two years, how many victims of scams have been able to recover all or part of their losses from successful law enforcement operations or compensation from banks and other entities; and (b) how much has been recovered.
- *55. Ms Hany Soh: To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance with regard to the new shared parental leave scheme (NSPL) announced on 18 August 2024 (a) what is the rationale for commencing the NSPL on 1 April 2025; (b) whether the Government will consider bringing forward the NSPL commencement date to 2024; and (c) if the commencement date cannot be brought forward, whether there are alternative support measures available to prospective parents who will otherwise miss out on the NSPL benefits.

- *56. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance what are the planned efforts with the Tripartite Partners to drive support for the new shared parental leave scheme, especially on the utilisation of paternity leave.
- *57. Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant: To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether an update can be provided on the integration programmes and the briefings conducted for foreign workers of all nationalities to ensure that they are apprised of the importance of racial and religious harmony in Singapore before their employment; and (b) whether more steps will be taken to educate foreign workers living in dormitories on racial harmony and in the language that they understand best after the incident of a Bangladeshi preacher who illegally preached at a dormitory on 9 August 2024.
- *58. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Ministry encourages or mandates Management Corporation Strata Titles (MCSTs) to include in their by-laws prohibitions on elected Members of Parliament (MPs) from visiting the residents staying within their properties; (b) if no such guidance exists, whether the Ministry is aware of any MCSTs implementing such prohibitions; (c) whether the Ministry intends to take any steps to ensure that such prohibitions are not unfairly applied to any MPs; and (d) if so, what are they.
- *59. Miss Rachel Ong: To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether there are regulations in place relating to the sale of WorldCoin accounts to third party agents for monetary incentives; (b) what are the implications of such accounts being sold to a third party; and (c) whether there is a risk of these accounts being used for money laundering or fraudulent transactions.
- *60. Ms Hany Soh: To ask the Minister for Health (a) when did the Ministry last reviewed and adjusted MediSave withdrawal limits; and (b) whether the Ministry is considering raising MediSave withdrawal limits to better help Singaporeans cope with rising healthcare costs.
- *61. 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.
- *62. Mr Pritam Singh: To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth whether an update can be provided on MAS' further work to establish the facts in relation to the representations made by the former CEO of Income Insurance Ltd (Income) and NTUC Enterprise, respectively, on whether NTUC Enterprise's undertaking to hold on to the shares of Income was not for an indefinite period.
- *63. Mr Ong Hua Han: To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the goal time frame to increase breast screening take-up rates to at least 70% of women aged 50 to 69; (b) what are the Government's plans to further educate the public on and address misconceptions of breast cancer and breast cancer screenings; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider looking into subsidising cancer genetic testing for high-risk populations.
- *64. Mr Darryl David: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how many cases of rioting with deadly weapons have taken place in the last five years; (b) how many of those involved in these cases are under 21 years of age; and (c) how do the Police and other relevant authorities deal with these cases, especially when the perpetrators are under the age of 21.

- *65. Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan: To ask the Minister for Law under the new Practice Training Period (PTP) framework for trainee lawyers (a) what is the rationale for the limit of 18 working days for which trainees may be absent from practice training for reason such as sick leave, annual leave, maternity leave or national service leave; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider (i) expanding the PTP framework to regulate the pay structure of trainee lawyers and (ii) classifying trainee lawyers as employees with the doubling of PTP to 12 months.
- *66. Mr Gan Thiam Poh: To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Government will consider providing an additional category of HDB BTO flats for first-timer applicants whose joint incomes fall between \$14,000 and \$16,000 and who find purchasing an Executive Condominium a financial burden.
- *67. Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether the Ministry will consider setting up a formal committee to coordinate whole-of-Government efforts to streamline Government processes to reduce the complexity of doing business in Singapore; and (b) whether the Ministry can explain how such a committee's efforts will differ from the role played by the Pro-Enterprise Panel.
- *68. Mr Ang Wei Neng: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the longest average waiting time per week at PSA ports since January 2024; (b) given the escalation of tension in the Middle East and other parts of the world, whether the Ministry can provide an update on the current port congestion situation in Singapore; and (c) what are the plans to further ease port congestion in the next 12 months.
- *69. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether a survey has been conducted to assess the extent to which healthcare workers including doctors, nurses and allied health professionals are working outside of official duty hours, including from offsite, for purposes of preparation or completion of administrative matters arising from clinical duties transpiring during official duty hours; and (b) what is being done to recognise such ground realities where they arise, and ensure this will not undermine the intent of flexible working arrangements.
- *70. Mr Lim Biow Chuan: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what are the plans by the police to prevent extreme right-wing influencers from spreading fake news or stirring up unhappiness on race and religious matters using the social media platforms.
- *71. Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan: To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry has data on the number of (i) Singapore citizens and (ii) permanent residents who are currently working on digital nomad visas offered by other countries; (b) if so, what is the number, respectively; and (c) what is the breakdown in number of digital nomad visa holders who are employed by (i) companies located in Singapore and (ii) companies located outside of Singapore.
- *72. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development whether he can provide an update on the progress made on the Enabling Masterplan 2030's recommendations under Area 5 on Inclusive Living.
- *73. **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.

- *74. Mr Xie Yao Quan: To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the move to prohibit bicycles and non-motorised personal mobility devices from footpaths adjacent to cycling paths, how does LTA plan to enforce this new rule.
- *75. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether the Ministry will consider raising the age ceiling for childcare leave provisions until the child is 12 years of age, considering the wider adoption of home-based learning in primary schools.
- *76. **Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Minister for Education why the recently announced change in the Gifted Education Programme is not designed into a system where students can elect their choices of subject levels based on their ability, gifting and interest.
- *77. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what lessons have been learnt from the Gifted Education Programme (GEP) in catering for the academic, emotional and social needs of high-ability students over the last 40 years; and (b) what measures have been planned to ensure that the revamped GEP will continue to meet the emotional and social needs of high-ability students, including ensuring that there are a sufficient number of teachers who are trained to manage high-ability learners.
- *78. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Education in light of the recent changes to the Gifted Education Programme (GEP) which aim to include more students, how does the Ministry plan to (i) address any potential disparity in resource allocation and learning opportunities between students in the GEP and those in the mainstream programme and (ii) ensure equitable access to quality education for all students.
- *79. **Ms Foo Mee Har:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what key outcomes have been observed from the Gifted Education Programme (GEP) since its inception in terms of the students' academic and holistic development; and (b) how does the Ministry intend to build on the lessons learned to address specific challenges in the revamped GEP model for high-ability learners.
- *80. **Ms Mariam Jaafar:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Ministry can provide details on how the revamped Gifted Education Programme (GEP) will be implemented; and (b) how will the Ministry ensure that schools and teachers are adequately equipped and resourced to identify high-ability learners and that the needs of these students and teachers are supported.
- *81. Ms See Jinli Jean: To ask the Minister for Digital Development and Information whether the Ministry will consider requiring (i) firms that have been awarded creative projects by Ministries and Government agencies to endeavour towards engaging Singapore-registered sub-contractors and local talents, crew, and facilities for their projects and (ii) these firms to dedicate a reasonable portion of their budget in engaging local talents and crew, so as to boost the capabilities of the Singapore creative workforce and growth of a creative economy.
- *82. Mr Darryl David: To ask the Minister for Health regarding the recent action taken against doctors for making wrongful insurance claims (a) what steps are taken to ensure that patients who need to claim on their insurance policies for health procedures and treatments are not adversely affected; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider working with relevant parties to allow certain procedures and treatments to be claimable in an outpatient setting, rather than requiring them to fall under the inpatient category to prevent doctors from warding patients unnecessarily to claim from their insurance.
- *83. Ms Foo Mee Har: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether considerations are being made to assist seniors who find the automated procedures for immigration clearance at Changi Airport confusing; and (b) whether ICA officers are trained to proactively help these seniors.

- *84. Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong: To ask the Minister for National Development in respect of LTA's recent announcements that it will be converting the footpaths adjacent to dedicated cycling paths into Pedestrian-Only Paths, whether NParks will align the use of its Park Connector Network (PCN) accordingly so that there will consistently be Pedestrian-Only Paths alongside paths for exclusive use of cyclists and active mobility users throughout the PCN, in order to promote safety and consistency for all pedestrians and active mobility users.
- *85. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether NEA will ban the use of plastic wrappers for chopsticks to prevent the littering of such plastic wrappers at food centres.
- *86. Mr Saktiandi Supaat: To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Ministry will consider procuring public buses that have luggage racks or retrofitting existing buses and trains so that travellers and commuters who are travelling on the public transport from the airports to the city and vice versa have provisions to put their luggage.
- *87. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song: To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) what specific criteria does the People's Association use to determine whether an elected Member of Parliament (MP) can be invited to a Residents Network-organised event in their constituency; and (b) what policies are in place to ensure that all elected MPs, regardless of party affiliation, have equal opportunities to attend these publicly-funded events within their constituencies.
- *88. Ms Ng Ling Ling: To ask the Minister for Health for sandwiched families who have elderlies in advance-stage dementia whose conditions are beyond home care and children who are still studying, whether the Ministry can consider allowing the use of MediSave of the family members to cover nursing home fees for the elderlies if the cash portion after Government means-tested subsidies is still challenging for the families to pay.
- *89. Mr Saktiandi Supaat: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) in each year of the past 10 years, how many fatal accidents have been caused by a reversing large vehicle; and (b) whether large vehicles should be mandated to install the safety features that are found on public buses such as blind spot cameras and warning sirens.
- *90. Mr Liang Eng Hwa: To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the utilisation rate of the CareersFinder by Singaporeans since the beta version has been launched; (b) what are the feedback on the effectiveness of this version of the CareersFinder; and (c) when will the full version be ready for use.
- *91. Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye: To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance with regard to recent statistics from the Monetary Authority of Singapore which show an increase in bad credit card debts of nearly 20% in the first quarter of 2024 (a) whether more can be done to improve consumers' personal finance literacy; and (b) whether more regulation on credit card spending is necessary to prevent consumers from spiralling into bad debts.
- *92. Ms Usha Chandradas: To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth whether the Ministry has any plans to develop or lead any initiatives to create comprehensive skills and salary guidelines for arts workers so as to ensure that competitive salaries are provided to members of the arts community and to improve talent attraction and retention within the various arts groups.

- *93. **Mr Don Wee:** To ask the Minister for Education whether SkillsFuture credits can be utilised to support Singaporeans in pursuing professional certifications such as the Singapore Chartered Accountant Qualification (SCAQ), Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), and Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFOA) examinations to enhance their career prospects and professional development.
- *94. **Ms Mariam Jaafar:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how many seniors are currently receiving financial assistance under the Pioneer Generation Disability Assistance Scheme; and (b) whether there are any plans to review the current grant quantum of \$100 a month.
- *95. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang: To ask the Minister for Manpower for each year in the past five years, what is the mean and median number of working hours a week for full-time resident employees aged 25 to 64 years old earning (i) below \$2,000 per month (ii) \$2,000 to \$4,999 per month and (iii) \$5,000 and above per month, respectively.
- *96. Mr Ong Hua Han: To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) how often are maintenance checks conducted on toilets, changing rooms and shower facilities in ActiveSG's sports facilities; (b) how often are they discovered to be in need of repair; and (c) what feedback on these facilities has been received through the feedback form provided on the ActiveSG website.
- *97. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang: To ask the Minister for Education in each year for the past five years, where parents fail to register a child for Primary 1 in a national primary school (a) how many cases have been escalated to the Compulsory Education Board and what are the outcomes of these cases; and (b) how many cases have resulted in legal action being taken against uncooperative parents and what are the outcomes of these cases.
- *98. Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry: To ask the Minister for Health whether the Ministry will consider setting up more Active Ageing Centres within private housing estates, such as at parks or in shophouses, to serve seniors living nearby.
- *99. Mr Ang Wei Neng: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether it is a mandatory requirement by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) for applicants to submit all supporting documents through ICA website; and (b) whether ICA can allow elderly residents who are not IT savvy to submit applications and supporting documents physically at the ICA office.
- *100. Mr Saktiandi Supaat: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether BCA requires residential estates to cater for proper waiting or holding areas within the estate which residents and drivers of vehicles are to adhere; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider enhancing the HDB and BCA regulations of such areas, including road planning inside residential estates.
- *101. Ms Poh Li San: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry in view of the recent signing of the Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation with the United States, whether the relevant Government agencies will publish reports on the feasibility and safety considerations related to nuclear energy generation options for Singapore so as to allay public concerns.
- *102. Ms Sylvia Lim: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry whether the Ministry can provide an assessment of the status and prospects of the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project to import hydropower from Laos.

- *103. Miss Rachel Ong: To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether the Open Door Programme Job Redesign Grant under SG Enable is extended to companies hiring persons with disabilities (PWDs) on a part-time basis; and (b) if so, what is the number of companies that have used this grant to support hiring of PWDs on a part-time basis in the last five years.
- *104. Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Ministry has conducted (i) any surveys on community support for the Friendly Streets and Silver Zones traffic calming schemes and (ii) longitudinal studies on the impact of the traffic calming schemes on road safety; and (b) if so, whether the Ministry can share its findings.
- *105. Ms Carrie Tan: To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether there is currently any psychological safety training for senior management and board members of social service agencies to support the mental well-being of social workers in their organisations; (b) whether steps are being taken by the National Council of Social Service to support the mental well-being of these social workers by ensuring that those who express psychological difficulties do not face criticisms or reprisals within their organisations; and (c) if so, what are these steps.
- *106. Mr Ong Hua Han: To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Ministry will consider steering car rental companies towards adopting inclusive consumer practices such as providing cars with assistive driving equipment to cater to drivers with disabilities.
- *107. Mr Don Wee: To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether NEA will permit construction worksites that utilise electric cranes, electric power generators and electric trucks, which produce low decibel noise levels, to operate beyond 9 pm.
- * 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:

Income Tax (Amendment) Bill.

(President's recommendation signified).

2. Second Minister for Finance:

Multinational Enterprise (Minimum Tax) Bill.

(President's recommendation signified).

3. Minister for Law:

Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Bill.

4. Minister for Manpower:

Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill.

5. Minister for Digital Development and Information:

Elections (Integrity of Online Advertising) (Amendment) Bill.

6. Minister for Culture, Community and Youth:

Community Disputes Resolution (Amendment) Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

- 1. Energy Transition Measures and Other Amendments Bill [Bill No. 27/2024] (Second Minister for Trade and Industry) Second Reading.
- 2. Platform Workers Bill [Bill No. 26/2024] (Minister for Manpower) Second Reading.

[For amendment on the Bill, see Supplement No. 22 dated 9 September 2024.]

- 3. Casino Control (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 24/2024] (Second Minister for Home Affairs) Second Reading.
- **4.** Building Control (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 23/2024] (Minister for National Development) Second Reading.

MEMORANDUM

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

Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim: Reimagining the Future of Education. (Nominated Member)

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

- 1. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether the Ministry can release the data on deaths of Singapore citizens over the last 10 years, as distinct from resident deaths; and (b) what is the projected year in which citizen deaths will exceed citizen births based on current trends.
- 2. Mr Christopher de Souza: To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether banks can be mandated to maintain more manpower at bank branches amid a broader shift towards digital banking so as to reduce queue time at bank branches and to reduce the impact on seniors who are not technologically savvy.
- 3. Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant: To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) what are some of the key takeaways for the Government from the results of Singlife's Financial Freedom Index 2024 survey; (b) what are some of the key concerns in the area of ensuring financial freedom and stability especially amongst the younger generation of Singaporeans; and (c) what steps can the community and business organisations take to enhance public education on financial stability for Singaporeans.
- **4. Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether the Ministry monitors the number and monetary quantum of infrastructure projects awarded to contractors across all tenders or projects administered by the various Ministries and agencies to ensure that there is no risk of overexposure of liability, finance or resource on a particular contractor or party.
- 5. Ms Mariam Jaafar: To ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) what is the number of Singaporeans who are not eligible for GST Vouchers and Assurance Package payments in 2024 based on their income in 2022 as assessed for Year of Assessment 2023 but who will meet the income eligibility criteria based on their income for 2023 as assessed for Year of Assessment 2024; and (b) how many of them have received the GST Vouchers and Assurance Package payments on appeal.
- 6. Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry for each year between 2016 and 2023, what is the share of gross domestic product growth driven by resident full-time income earners in the (i) 20th percentile (ii) 50th percentile (iii) 80th percentile and (iv) 90th percentile of such residents' total annual compensation received including CPF contributions by employers.
- 7. **Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry in each year from 2016 to 2023, and 2024 on a seasonally adjusted basis, what is the cumulative growth of the overall economy's (i) unit labour cost (ii) unit business cost and (iii) unit net operating surplus (also known as "unit net profit") respectively.

- **8. Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Defence in the last five years (a) what is the number of complaints made to the SAF Hotline; (b) of which, how many of such calls were made by (i) Full-Time National Servicemen and (ii) Regulars, respectively; and (c) how many of these calls resulted in an investigation where an officer or sergeant was penalised.
- 9. Mr Leong Mun Wai: To ask the Minister for Defence (a) in each year since 2010, how many National Service (NS) pre-enlistees have been exempted from NS because of mental health disorders; (b) how many of such individuals voluntarily choose to serve NS despite their exemption; (c) of these individuals, how many subsequently completed NS; and (d) how does the Ministry verify that pre-enlistees who have been diagnosed with mental health disorders by private doctors are indeed unfit to serve NS.
- 10. Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim: To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs in view of Singapore's position on the illegality of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories, what are Singapore's obligations with regard to the International Court of Justice's recent finding on international law violations in the Palestinian Territories including the continued unlawful occupation of the Palestinian Territories and how will Singapore support it.
- 11. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) has recovered any funds from Sunshine Empire since 2007; (b) if so, whether CAD is still holding on to any of the funds; and (c) what is the process and estimated completion timeline for the funds to be liquidated and distributed to creditors.
- 12. Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs in the past five years (a) how many requests have the Ministry received for a death certificate to be issued for individuals who have been presumed dead by the courts; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider issuing a death certificate to the next-of-kin of such individuals who have been presumed dead and, if not, why not.
- 13. Mr Desmond Choo: To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) in 2023, how many Student's Passes have been issued to foreign students; (b) what is the proportion of holders who are found to have abused their Student's Passes such as for illegal employment; and (c) what are the measures in place to mitigate against such abuses.
- **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Law in order for an individual to pass the means test before qualifying for pro-bono legal representation from the Legal Aid Bureau (a) whether an individual is obliged to declare assets held overseas, such as property; (b) whether such overseas assets are taken into account for the purposes of the means test; and (c) if not, why not.
- 15. Ms See Jinli Jean: To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what are the Ministry's plans to improve recycling outcomes of plastic packaging; and (b) whether the Ministry will require food and beverage merchants to (i) educate consumers on what and how to recycle disposables correctly to avoid contamination of clean recyclables in the recycling bin and (ii) commit to clear timelines for the replacement of disposable plastic packaging with sustainable and affordable alternatives.
- 16. Mr Yip Hon Weng: To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the Ministry can provide data on the amount of recycling achieved since the launch of the Reverse Vending Machines (RVM) scheme under Recycle N Save, a joint initiative by F&N and NEA to place 50 Smart RVMs across Singapore to encourage recycling of used drink bottles and cans; and (b) following the discontinuation of Recycle N Save rewards on 31 July 2023, whether the RVMs are still being adequately maintained to continue the recycling of beverage containers.

- 17. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether NEA will produce more educational materials to remind residents on the penalties for high-rise littering.
- 18. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song: To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) in the past year, how many requests for enforcement action has NEA received for (i) pet defecation and (ii) pet urination in common areas of HDB estates; (b) how many times has NEA taken enforcement action against pet owners who fail to clean up after their pets in such areas; (c) whether there are any regulations that require owners to clean up pet urination; and (d) if not, whether the Ministry will consider introducing such regulations.
- 19. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment whether the Ministry can provide an update on the invitation for research proposals on studies on particulate matter generated by tyres and brakes under the Air Quality Monitoring and Control Funding Initiative.
- **20. Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether investigations have identified the cause and possible security vulnerabilities that may have led to the breach of the Mobile Guardian app in August 2024; (b) whether the app's security vulnerabilities highlighted in a report dated 30 May 2024 and received by the Ministry are related to the subsequent cybersecurity breach in August 2024; and (c) what additional measures have been implemented to further secure the cybersecurity of all students' devices and data.
- 21. Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song: To ask the Minister for Education before the security breach of Mobile Guardian in August 2024 (a) what are the dates of the most recent two vulnerability assessments and penetration tests (VAPT) conducted on the application; (b) how many vulnerability reports about Mobile Guardian have been submitted by members of the public; (c) whether all the vulnerabilities identified by each VAPT and vulnerability report have been resolved before the security breach; and (d) what is the frequency of VAPTs conducted on applications installed on students' personal learning devices.
- **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the respective fees paid by non-ASEAN international students (i) in polytechnics or (ii) who are undergraduates, and who pay fees nett of a tuition grant, are lower than their fees for secondary school and junior college; and (b) if so, what is the justification for such a situation.
- 23. Mr Desmond Choo: To ask the Minister for Education (a) what are the measures that have been taken to improve the quality of private education institutes of higher learning in Singapore; and (b) whether graduates of such institutes are a good source of foreign manpower to complement the local workforce.
- **24. Ms Mariam Jaafar:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Government will consider making kindergarten education compulsory; and (b) if so, what will be the factors taken into consideration for it to be integrated into the formal education system.
- **25. Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether the Ministry tracks the number of seniors who die alone in their homes, with their passing only detected days later; and (b) if so, what is the number of such cases in the past year.
- **26. Mr Don Wee:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) how many persons with special needs are currently employed in the public sector; (b) what are the main challenges faced by these public sector employees; and (c) what are the measures to support them in sustaining long-term employment in the public sector.

- **Mr Don Wee:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether the Ministry can consider further enhancements in collaboration with SG Enable to better incentivize and support smaller enterprises in hiring Singaporeans with special needs, beyond the existing schemes; and (b) how will the Ministry evaluate the effectiveness of these measures.
- **28. Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) when will be the next review of the \$300 monthly basic subsidy for working mothers with Singapore citizen children aged 18 months to below seven years old who are enrolled in full-day childcare programmes; and (b) what will be the factors considered before increasing the subsidy amount.
- 29. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang: To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development for each year in the past five years (a) what is the number of care and protection orders issued by the Youth Court where parents are required to sign a bond to (i) exercise proper care and guardianship over the child or (ii) attend counselling; (b) what is the number of such bonds breached; and (c) what other actions are taken against parents found to have breached these bonds besides the forfeiture of the bond.
- 30. Dr Lim Wee Kiak: To ask the Minister for Health since the use of MediSave for overseas elective hospitalisations and day surgeries has been allowed (a) what is the number of MediSave claims that have been made for such treatments in accredited hospitals in Malaysia per year; and (b) what is the corresponding amount of MediSave claimed for such treatments in accredited hospitals in Malaysia per year.
- 31. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Health whether the Ministry will consider expanding MediShield Life insurance to cover Singaporeans' healthcare bills incurred in Malaysian hospitals that have approved working arrangements with MediSave-accredited hospitals in Singapore.
- **32. Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry tracks the prevalence of perinatal depression in Singapore; and (b) if so, whether the Ministry can provide the statistics on the prevalence of perinatal depression among Singapore residents in the past five years.
- 33. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether a strategic survey has been conducted to assess the diversity of job roles, duties and skills within the pharmacist professional community and if not already done so, whether this will be done; and (b) whether the public healthcare institutions consider potential new roles and contributions when a pharmacist is sponsored for a postgraduate degree, and how the subsequent deployments can leverage on the new skills.
- **34. Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether a survey will be conducted to study the medical safety contributions of pharmacists, including how pharmacist interventions have prevented potential adverse outcomes for patients; and (b) what is the estimated cost of these averted adverse outcomes would have been, including the averted potential economic adversity and human suffering.
- 35. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what factors have contributed to the decrease in the number of suicides in Singapore in 2023; and (b) what measures are being implemented to sustain this trend and enhance mental health support particularly for vulnerable groups such as youths and the elderly.
- **36. Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether there are any safeguards imposed by NParks on its licensed contractors to ensure that their workers who are dealing with birds, are protected from the H5N1 avian flu.

- 37. Ms Joan Pereira: To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Ministry will consider implementing more regulations over pet service providers to ensure the welfare of pets, such as requiring pet service providers to be trained by approved institutions and licensed.
- 38. Mr Yip Hon Weng: To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Ministry will consider implementing additional cooling measures for the private condominium market, such as raising the Additional Buyer's Stamp Duty or having stricter loan-to-value limits, to moderate demand and potentially relieve upward pressure on HDB flat prices; and (b) whether the Ministry will further curb investment demand and prioritise HDB flats for owner occupation by restricting HDB flat owners from owning private properties.
- **39. Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for National Development for each year since 2020, what is the breakdown by race and citizenship status of HDB flat owners whose HDB flats sold for at least \$1 million.
- **40. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) in the past five years, what is the number of appeals for a HDB concessionary loan and of these, what is the number of successful appeals; and (b) what recourse is available to would-be HDB flat purchasers who require financing to purchase a home but are ineligible for a commercial bank loan.
- 41. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for National Development in each year of the last five years (a) how many animal cruelty and welfare cases has the Ministry (i) investigated and (ii) taken enforcement actions on; (b) what is the breakdown of the cases by types of offence; and (c) what is the breakdown of the cases by types of animal.
- **42. Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth whether the Ministry can consider extending the senior citizen rate for usage of mainstream ActiveSG's sports facilities to persons with disabilities (PwDs) to encourage more PwDs to use such facilities for exercise and promote inclusive sports participation.
- **43. Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) whether the Arts Resource Hub has achieved its intended goals; and (b) what further plans are underway to develop this resource for the benefit of the arts community.
- **44. Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth whether the Ministry has any plans or initiatives to assist or encourage minority arts groups that perform and present their work in non-English mediums, to reach out to wider audiences.
- **45. Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth what are the (i) expected total costs to develop the Founders' Memorial and (ii) annual operating costs thereafter.
- **Mr Don Wee:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in lieu of using of foreign worker quota adjustments as a lever to incentivise companies to hire special needs workers, what alternative measures are being considered to support companies that employ Singaporeans with special needs, particularly in managing operational challenges.
- **47. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower how many dormitories have informed the Ministry of their plans to start work earlier to meet the (i) interim standards and (ii) New Dormitory Standards, respectively, under the Dormitory Transition Scheme to improve living conditions for dormitory residents.

- **48. Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether the Ministry can work with the MAS to explore implementing short-term repayment freezes on housing loans and insurance premiums for Singaporeans facing unemployment.
- **Mr Liang Eng Hwa:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry will review the age limit of 60 years old for foreign domestic workers (FDWs) to work in Singapore; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider employers' appeals for yearly extensions of their FDWs' work permit to work in Singapore beyond this age limit.
- 50. Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Minister for Manpower in each year of the last three years (a) what is the number of incidence of salary claims with a breakdown by work pass types; and (b) what is the number of incidence of salary claims among work permit holders with a breakdown by industry.
- 51. Ms Hazel Poa: To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the current status of plans to build the Tuas South extension of the MRT line; and (b) whether the two unused platforms at Gul Circle MRT station will be utilised under such plans.