

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

FIRST SESSION

ORDER PAPER

MONDAY, 7 MARCH 2022

No. 55

10.30 am

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) in the past two years, whether it has been found that PSLE results are significantly correlated with social economic status; (b) if yes, how does the Ministry intend to reduce the correlation; and (c) if no analysis has been conducted on this issue, whether the Ministry intends to study this issue further.
- *2. **Ms Hany Soh:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development what support is available to assist pre-schools that are grappling with COVID-19 rules and manpower shortage issues as COVID-19 cases rise.
- *3. **Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what are the recommended guidelines used to assess MediFund applications, including the quantum of assistance to be provided; (b) what degree of autonomy do MediFund Committees have to make decisions on such applications; and (c) what measures are in place to ensure consistency of interpretation of these guidelines by MediFund Committees across the MediFund-approved institutions.
- *4. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) what are the common causes of fire along HDB common corridors; (b) what percentage of HDB flats built before June 2018 have Home Fire Alarm Device (HFAD) installed; (c) whether the take-up rate for the installation of HFADs is on the rise; and (d) what are the Ministry's efforts to encourage more households to install HFADs.

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- *5. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry monitors manpower policies in hospitals with respect to nurses' and doctors' rest days and off days for compliance with the Employment Act; (b) whether the present Omicron COVID-19 wave constitutes a situation under section 38(2) of the Employment Act which allows an employer to require an employee to exceed the limit of hours worked and to work on a rest day; and (c) how it ensures nurses and doctors have sufficient rest.
- *6. Ms Mariam Jaafar:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the occupancy cap for HDB jumbo flats can be increased from the current six persons to between eight and 10 persons.
- *7. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the statistics for 2021 shows an increasing trend in the number of people using vaporisers; and (b) amongst the users which consist of school-going youths and children, which age group and education level saw the highest number of vaporiser users.
- *8. Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development whether the Ministry will consider a text messaging service in addition to the 24-hour National Anti-Violence Helpline to allow for the quick reporting of family violence cases or urgent queries for assistance via non-verbal means.
- *9. Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Health given the rapid increase in the use of antigen rapid test (ART) for self-testing, whether the Government will consider working with the ART kits manufacturers to reduce and streamline the amount of unnecessary packaging used in these kits.
- *10. Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Ministry is reviewing the measures that can be taken to enforce a breach of a covenant of the Memorandum of Lease to HDB's lease agreement; and (b) whether a tiered penalty system can be incorporated.
- *11. Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) in the past five years, what is the annual number of cases reported on animal hoarding; (b) what action is taken against the hoarders, broken down by the number of animals involved; (c) under what circumstances can the authorities rescue these animals; (d) whether the Ministry will consider legal or regulatory action to strengthen such powers of rescue; and (e) what is being done to deter animal hoarding and prevent relapses.

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- *12. Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Finance (a) what is the number of existing waste management contracts under Government Procurement Entities (GPEs) that will expire beyond 2024; (b) whether an advisory will be issued to these GPEs to allow a contract variation with their waste management service providers to factor in cost increases due to the Progressive Wage Model (PWM); and (c) if not, what recourse is available to these service providers who have signed their contracts before the announcement of the PWM and unable to continue providing the service.

* 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 Bill

1. Minister for Law:

Extradition (Amendment) Bill.

ORDER OF THE DAY

1. Estimates for the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 (Paper Cmd. 12 of 2022) – Committee of Supply (Progress: 4 March 2022) (*4th Allotted Day*).

Resumption of Debate on Question (4 March 2022)

“That the total sum to be allocated for Head S of the Estimates be reduced by \$100.” – (Mr Desmond Choo).

[For amendments to be moved in the Committee of Supply, see Supplement No. 11 dated 2 March 2022.]

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Law whether there is an update on the study to enhance the case management system by the State Courts to capture and track data on the types of harassment filed under the Protection from Harassment Act 2014, broken down into categories such as sexual and workplace harassment, online harassment and harassment by neighbours.
 2. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry in view of the escalation of tension and the situation in Ukraine and the neighbouring regions (a) what is the potential impact on Singapore's investments in Ukraine and the region; and (b) what are the measures taken to alleviate the impact of any potential disruption to essential supplies from the region due to the situation.
 3. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the dip in satisfaction with public transport services last year compared to 2020, what are the plans by the Ministry to improve commuters' satisfaction with bus and MRT services.
 4. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Education whether primary school students are streamed into different classes when they are in Primary 3 or Primary 4.
 5. **Mr Leon Perera:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) whether the Government intends to withdraw its reservation to Article 25(e) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which recognises that Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability; and (b) if so, what is the date for the withdrawal.
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