

**Volume 80
No. 15**



**Monday
16th January, 2006**

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES SINGAPORE OFFICIAL REPORT CONTENTS

Permission to Members to be Absent (Cols. 1950-1953)

Assents to Bills Passed (Col. 1954)

Oral Answers to Questions (Cols. 1955-2004)

1 - 3. National Service defaulters (Col. 1955)

**4. Voluntary welfare organisations (Cols. 1955-1959)
(Standards for good governance)**

5. Young girls referred for protection (Cols. 1960-1961)

**6. Bird flu (Cols. 1961-1965)
(Surveillance and early detection)**

7. Potential tsunami (Cols. 1965-1968)

**8. Water conservation tax and tariff (Cols. 1968-1973)
(Reduction)**

**9 - 11. Causeway and Second Link (Cols. 1973-1980)
(Traffic jams)**

**12 & 13. Purchase of HDB flats using bank loans (Cols. 1980-1987)
(Profile of buyers)**

Oral Answers to Questions (*cont.*)

14. Rental flats (Cols. 1987-1988)
(Provision of more options)
15. Changi Airport (Cols. 1988-1990)
(Provision of aviation fuel)
16. Changi Airport (Cols. 1990-1991)
(Rail and bus transport between terminals)
17. Warwick University (Cols. 1991-1993)
(Opening of campus in Singapore)
18. Retailers and non-regulated entities (Cols. 1993-1994)
(Offer of deferred credit terms and unsecured credit to consumers)
19. Credit card companies (Cols. 1994-1998)
20. General Elections (Cols. 1998-2001)
(Allocation of rally sites)
21. Manufacturing sector (Cols. 2001-2002)
(Employment of diploma and degree holders)
22. Matchmaking agencies (Cols. 2002-2004)
(Laws to regulate activities)

National Service Defaulters (Col. 2004-2084)

(Statement by the Minister for Defence)

Exempted Business (Col. 2084)

Motion agreed to

Residential Property (Amendment) Bill (Col. 2085)

Presented, and read the First time

Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill (Col. 2085)

Presented, and read the First time

Casino Control Bill (Col. 2085)

Presented, and read the First time

Accountants (Amendment) Bill (Col. 2086)

Introduction deferred

Payment Systems (Oversight) Bill (Cols. 2086-2095)

Read a Second time; considered in Committee; reported without amendment;
read a Third time

Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Bill (Cols. 2095-2103)

Read a Second time; considered in Committee; reported without amendment;
read a Third time

Intoxicating Substances (Amendment) Bill (Cols. 2103-2106)

Read a Second time; considered in Committee; reported without amendment;
read a Third time

Adjournment (Col. 2106)

**Written Answers to Questions for Oral Answer Not Answered by 3.00 pm
(Cols. 2107-2118)**

21. Manufacturing sector (Cols. 2107-2108)

(Employment of diploma and degree holders)

24. IMF and World Bank Group meetings in Singapore (Cols. 2107-2110)

(Contingency plans to deal with militant protesters)

**25. Individuals collecting and selling cardboard boxes and tin cans
(Cols. 2109-2112)**

(Assistance)

26. Housing and Development Board flats (Cols. 2111-2112)

(Reverse mortgage for the elderly)

27. Sengkang and Punggol (Cols. 2111-2114)

(Parking lots for heavy vehicles)

28. Workers travelling in lorries and pick-up trucks (Cols. 2113-2114)

(Numbers of injuries and fatalities)

29. Sports complex at Pasir Ris Drive (Cols. 2113-2116)

31. Basement carparks in HDB estates (Cols. 2115-2118)

Written Answers to Questions (Cols. 2119-2128)

1. Outsourcing of traffic fines (Cols. 2119-2120)

(Figures and trends)

Written Answers to Questions (*cont.*)

- 2 & 3. Boarding and alighting taxis (Cols. 2119-2122)**
(Accidents and measures)
- 4. URA's 2001 Identity Plan for Anak Bukit area (Cols. 2121-2122)**
(Reconsideration)
- 5. Small businesses in financial difficulties (Cols. 2121-2124)**
(Figures)
- 6. Avian flu and infectious diseases (Cols. 2123-2126)**
(Policy review and free treatment)
- 7. Social-emotional learning (Cols. 2125-2128)**
(Implementation in schools)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES SINGAPORE

OFFICIAL REPORT

TENTH PARLIAMENT

PART II OF SECOND SESSION

VOLUME 80

Monday, 16th January, 2006

The House met at 1.30 pm

PRESENT:

Mr SPEAKER (Mr Abdullah Tarmugi (East Coast)).

Mr Ahmad Khalis Bin Abdul Ghani (Hong Kah).

Dr Ahmad Mohd Magad (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr Ang Mong Seng (Hong Kah).

Mr Cedric Foo Chee Keng (West Coast).

Mr Alexander Chan Meng Wah (Nominated Member).

Mr Chan Soo Sen (Joo Chiat), Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Mr Chay Wai Chuen (Tanjong Pagar).

Dr John Chen Seow Phun (Hong Kah).

Mr Chew Heng Ching (East Coast), Deputy Speaker.

Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong (Non-Constituency Member).

Mr Chiam See Tong (Potong Pasir).

Assoc. Prof. Chin Tet Yung (Sembawang).

Mr Charles Chong (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Dr Chong Weng Chiew (Tanjong Pagar).

Mr Arthur Fong (West Coast).

Mr Gan Kim Yong (Holland-Bukit Panjang), Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower.

Mr Andy Gan Lai Chiang (Marine Parade).

Dr Geh Min (Nominated Member).

Mdm Halimah Yacob (Jurong).

Mr Heng Chee How (Jalan Besar), Minister of State, Ministry of National Development.

Assoc. Prof. Ho Peng Kee (Nee Soon East), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Home Affairs.

Mr Inderjit Singh (Ang Mo Kio), Deputy Government Whip.

Prof. S Jayakumar (East Coast), Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law.

Mr Khaw Boon Wan (Tanjong Pagar), Minister for Health.

Dr Amy Khor Lean Suan (Hong Kah).

Assoc. Prof. Koo Tsai Kee (Tanjong Pagar), Senior Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence and Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

Dr Lee Boon Yang (Jalan Besar), Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts and Government Whip.

Mr Lee Hsien Loong (Ang Mo Kio), Prime Minister and Minister for Finance.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew (Tanjong Pagar), Minister Mentor, Prime Minister's Office.

Mr Lee Yock Suan (East Coast).

Mr Lawrence Leow Chin Hin (Nominated Member).

Mr Lim Boon Heng (Jurong), Minister, Prime Minister's Office.

Dr Michael Lim Chun Leng (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr Lim Hng Kiang (West Coast), Minister for Trade and Industry.

Mrs Lim Hwee Hua (Marine Parade), Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Transport.

Mr Raymond Lim Siang Keat (East Coast), Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr Lim Swee Say (Holland-Bukit Panjang), Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Government Whip.

Mr David T E Lim (Holland-Bukit Panjang).

Mr Loh Meng See (Jalan Besar).

Dr Loo Choon Yong (Nominated Member).

Miss Penny Low (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Assoc. Prof. Low Seow Chay (Chua Chu Kang).

Mr Low Thia Khiang (Hougang).

Mr Mah Bow Tan (Tampines), Minister for National Development and Deputy Leader of the House.

Mr Matthias Yao Chih (MacPherson).

Encik Mohamad Maidin B P M (Marine Parade), Senior Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Home Affairs.

Dr Lily Neo (Jalan Besar).

Dr Ng Eng Hen (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Defence.

Ms Irene Ng Phek Hoong (Tampines).

Ms Eunice Elizabeth Olsen (Nominated Member).

Mr Ong Ah Heng (Nee Soon Central).

Dr Ong Chit Chung (Jurong).

Mr Ong Kian Min (Tampines).

Dr Ong Seh Hong (Aljunied).

Assoc. Prof. Ong Soh Khim (Nominated Member).

Mr Othman Haron Eusofe (Marine Parade).

Mdm Cynthia Phua (Aljunied).

Prof. Ivan Png Paak Liang (Nominated Member).

Mr R Ravindran (Marine Parade).

Mr S Iswaran (West Coast), Deputy Speaker.

Mr Seng Han Thong (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr K Shanmugam (Sembawang).

Mr Sin Boon Ann (Tampines).

Dr Tan Boon Wan (Ang Mo Kio).

Dr Tan Cheng Bock (Ayer Rajah).

Mr Tan Soo Khoon (East Coast).

Dr Tan Sze Wee (Nominated Member).

Mr Teo Chee Hean (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Minister for Defence.

Dr Teo Ho Pin (Holland-Bukit Panjang).

Mr Teo Yock Ngee (Nominated Member).

Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam (Jurong), Minister for Education.

Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam (Sembawang).

Dr Wang Kai Yuen (Bukit Timah).

Mr Wee Siew Kim (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr Wong Kan Seng (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Home Affairs and Leader of the House.

Permission to Members to be Absent

<i>Name</i>	<i>From</i> <i>(2005/2006)</i>	<i>To</i> <i>(2005/2006)</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>From</i> <i>(2005/2006)</i>	<i>To</i> <i>(2005/2006)</i>
Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman	01 Dec	03 Dec	Dr Ng Eng Hen	11 Dec	17 Dec
	28 Dec	30 Dec		25 Jan	29 Jan
	14 Jan	21 Jan	Prof. S Jayakumar	11 Dec	19 Dec
Dr Tan Boon Wan	01 Dec	05 Dec		28 Jan	05 Feb
Mr Davinder Singh	02 Dec	06 Dec		13 Feb	16 Feb
	16 Jan	23 Jan	Mr Leong Horn Kee	12 Dec	19 Dec
Dr John Chen Seow Phun	02 Dec	18 Dec		16 Jan	24 Jan
Mr Gan Kim Yong	03 Dec	09 Dec		08 Feb	15 Feb
	10 Dec	17 Dec		20 Feb	24 Feb
	26 Dec	27 Dec	Dr Wang Kai Yuen	12 Dec	18 Dec
Assoc. Prof. Dr Yaacob Ibrahim	03 Dec	11 Dec		25 Dec	29 Dec
	15 Dec	25 Dec		10 Jan	13 Jan
Mr Cedric Foo Chee Keng	04 Dec	07 Dec	Mr Ang Mong Seng	13 Dec	16 Dec
	09 Dec	18 Dec		27 Dec	30 Dec
	22 Dec	24 Dec		10 Jan	14 Jan
	25 Jan	28 Jan	Mr David T E Lim	13 Dec	16 Dec
Dr Ong Seh Hong	04 Dec	11 Dec		28 Dec	01 Jan
Mr Zainul Abidin Rasheed	04 Dec	10 Dec		14 Jan	15 Jan
	24 Dec	26 Dec		16 Jan	17 Jan
	07 Jan	10 Jan	Mr Sin Boon Ann	13 Dec	23 Dec
	16 Jan	19 Jan	Dr Teo Ho Pin	13 Dec	16 Dec
Ms Eunice Elizabeth Olsen	06 Dec	16 Dec	Mr Ahmad Khalis Bin Abdul Ghani	14 Dec	17 Dec
	30 Dec	07 Jan		19 Dec	23 Dec
Prof. Ivan Png Paak Liang	06 Dec	24 Dec	Encik Yatiman Yusof	16 Dec	18 Dec
	28 Jan	31 Jan		20 Dec	29 Dec
	18 Feb	25 Feb	Mrs Lim Hwee Hua	17 Dec	18 Dec
	28 May	09 Jun	Mr Yeo Cheow Tong	17 Dec	19 Dec
	06 Jul	12 Jul		11 Jan	18 Jan
Mr Teo Chee Hean	07 Dec	07 Dec	Mr Othman Haron Eusofe	18 Dec	21 Dec
	25 Dec	26 Dec		13 Jan	15 Jan
Mr George Yong-Boon Yeo	08 Dec	23 Dec	Assoc. Prof. Chin Tet Yung	19 Dec	19 Dec
	23 Jan	25 Jan	Encik Mohamad Maidin B P M	19 Dec	06 Jan
Mr Inderjit Singh	08 Dec	19 Dec	Mr Tharman	19 Dec	25 Dec
Mr Lawrence Leow Chin Hin	08 Dec	09 Dec	Shanmugaratnam	08 Jan	12 Jan
	23 Dec	24 Dec	Mr Zainudin Nordin	19 Dec	27 Dec
	18 Jan	27 Jan		15 Jan	20 Jan
Mr Lim Hng Kiang	08 Dec	10 Dec	Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam	21 Dec	26 Dec
	13 Dec	19 Dec	Dr Lee Boon Yang	22 Dec	31 Dec
	26 Dec	30 Dec	Mr Low Thia Kiang	22 Dec	27 Dec
Mr Chan Soo Sen	10 Dec	18 Dec	Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon	22 Dec	29 Dec
	25 Dec	27 Dec	Dr Ahmad Mohd Magad	23 Dec	24 Dec
	10 Jan	15 Jan		11 Jan	13 Jan
Dr Lily Neo	10 Dec	14 Dec		17 Jan	20 Jan
Mr Lee Hsien Loong	11 Dec	25 Dec		26 Jan	02 Feb

Oral Answers to Questions

[Mr MAH BOW TAN]

friends or relatives. We have often emphasised that where there are alternatives, like staying with your friends or relatives, or your family, look at those alternatives first before you come to HDB.

So each case is processed very thoroughly. It is not a frivolous decision. Each case is looked at very closely, submitted to a committee to look at again before it is finally approved. But the record shows that and this is what I would like to inform the House, where there is severe financial difficulty, HDB has been very, very flexible.

RENTAL FLATS

(Provision of more options)

14. **Mdm Halimah Jacob** asked the Minister for National Development whether the Ministry will consider providing rental flats which are not as highly subsidised as the present HDB rental flats but yet are lower in rental compared to the private rental flats, so as to provide more options to lower income Singaporeans who find it difficult to purchase their own homes.

Mr Mah Bow Tan: Mr Speaker, Sir, low-income Singaporean families who cannot afford to buy HDB flats can rent subsidised 1- and 2-room flats from HDB. The qualifying monthly income ceiling for the HDB Public Rental Scheme was raised from \$800 to \$1,500 with effect from 1st October 2003.

Current rentals are very affordable and are pegged according to the income of the household. For households with monthly income of up to \$800, the average rent is about \$30 for a 1-room flat and \$60 for a 2-room flat. For those with monthly incomes between \$801 and \$1,500, the rentals are \$110 for a 1-room flat and \$140 for a 2-room flat.

The current income ceiling of \$1,500 corresponds roughly to the 23rd household income percentile. In other words, about one in four households can qualify for subsidised HDB rental housing. As for higher-income households, they have other housing options. Nevertheless, requests for subsidised rental housing from households with monthly income exceeding \$1,500 but are in financial hardship can still be considered on a case-by-case basis. We will also continue to closely monitor the housing needs of Singaporeans and we will review our policies accordingly if necessary.

CHANGI AIRPORT

(Provision of aviation fuel)

15. **Prof. Ivan Png Paak Liang** asked the Minister for Transport what are the commercial arrangements for the provision of aviation fuel at Changi Airport, and in particular (i) who are the concessionaires (ii) how are the concessions awarded; (iii) the duration of the concessions; and (iv) the pricing and conditions of service.

The Minister of State for Transport (Mrs Lim Hwee Hua) (for the Minister for Transport): Sir, there are currently six aviation fuel suppliers at Changi Airport, namely, Air Total, BP, Caltex, Exxonmobil, Shell and SPC. To avoid duplication of infrastructure at the airport, these suppliers formed a company called Changi Airport Fuel Hydrant Installation Pte Ltd, in short "CAFHI", to construct and operate a single set of fuel hydrant system at Changi Airport. The fuel hydrant system includes the fuel jetty, storage tanks, underground pipelines and other infrastructures which are shared by these fuel suppliers to store and deliver aviation fuel to their respective airline customers.

Although the fuel suppliers share a common infrastructure, they compete

Oral Answers to Questions

independently. Pricing and services provided to airlines by each fuel supplier is contracted separately and airlines are free to engage any one of the six suppliers.

When Changi Airport opened in 1981, CAAS issued CAFHI a 30-year operating licence to operate in Changi Airport. Under this operating licence, which expires in 2011, the consortium is required to ensure the quality of aviation fuel from the fuel suppliers, as well as adhere to the performance standards in the supply of aviation fuel.

Although major fuel companies like Shell, Exxonmobil, BP are already represented in Changi Airport, CAAS welcomes competition and any new oil company interested in doing business at Changi can do so by joining this consortium. The admission criteria for new entrants are spelt out in the CAFHI's Heads of Agreement. Any reputable oil company that can meet the admission criteria will be eligible to join the consortium by buying over an equity shareholding from the existing shareholders.

Prof. Ivan Png Paak Liang (Nominated Member): Would the Minister please remark on whether the consortium would be a way by which the existing members can cartelise the business in Changi Airport?

Mrs Lim Hwee Hua: Sir, perhaps, I can provide the following information to address the perception of a lack of market access or price control. We should note that CAFHI is structured as a consortium where the six fuel companies supplying fuel are shareholders and new suppliers interested in supplying fuel at Changi Airport are open to joining this consortium as a shareholder. The list of entry requirements is made available to anyone that is interested to apply as a shareholder. In addition, the consortium will provide its reasons to the applicant in

the event that its application is rejected. There has not been a case where a new fuel supplier applying to join the consortium was rejected. The last interested applicant was actually Kuwait Petroleum in 1993, but it withdrew its application before the consortium could send it the list of entry requirements. Another non-fuel trading company, Cosco Feoso, merely verbally expressed its interest in joining the consortium in 1998 but had never formally applied. All said, Sir, we need not fear that the present arrangement is actually causing any artificial inflation of fuel prices at Changi Airport, as our prices are the lowest in Asia.

CHANGI AIRPORT**(Rail and bus transport between terminals)**

16. **Prof. Ivan Png Paak Liang** asked the Minister for Transport (a) what are the provisions for rail and bus transport between Terminals 1 and 2 and the future Terminal 3 at Changi Airport; (b) what will be the waiting time and travel time between each pair of terminals; and (c) what are the provisions for disabled passengers and passengers with heavy luggage.

Mrs Lim Hwee Hua (for the Minister for Transport): Sir, Terminals 1 and 2 and the future Terminal 3 will be linked by an elevated light rail system which is similar to the system installed at Sengkang and Punggol New Town.

There will be a total of seven point-to-point rail lines linking Terminals 1, 2 and 3. These lines would serve passengers and staff in the transit areas, as well as the airport visitors and staff in the public areas.

In the event of a breakdown to any of these rail lines, buses will be deployed to ferry the passengers between the

*Oral Answers to Questions***(Mrs LIM HWEE HUA)**

terminals. However, passengers in the transit areas can still make use of travellers to commute between the terminals.

As for travel and waiting times, the distances between Terminals 1, 2 and 3 are all different. Each trip will not take long at all — ranging between a little over a minute at the shortest to two-and-a-half minutes for the longest. Waiting time on the platforms will range from two-and-a-half minutes to three-and-a-half minutes.

Prof. Ivan Png has also asked about the provisions for disabled passengers and passengers with heavy luggage. For the light rail systems, there will be a wheelchair ramp at each station. In the light rail vehicles themselves, there will be designated spaces for wheelchairs and passengers with trolleys.

I would like to assure the Member that each of the terminal buildings also has wheelchair ramps at the arrival and departure kerbsides, as well as lifts and toilets for the disabled. The airlines also provide assistance to passengers with disabilities. Passengers with heavy luggage can avail themselves of the porter service at the terminals.

WARWICK UNIVERSITY**(Opening of campus in Singapore)**

17. **Dr Lily Neo** asked the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what is his Ministry's response to Warwick University's decision to abort plans to open a campus in Singapore because of the alleged lack of academic freedom here; and (b) will this affect the Ministry's agenda in attracting world-class universities to open campuses in Singapore.

The Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr Lim Hng Kiang): Mr Speaker, Sir, to

date, we have attracted 16 leading universities from all over the world in a diverse range of disciplines to establish a presence in Singapore. These include the University of Chicago, MIT, INSEAD, the Technical University of Munich, and Waseda University. The University of New South Wales' plan to set up a comprehensive university is progressing well. When interviewed by the Australian press, Prof. Greg Whittred, President of the University of New South Wales' Singapore Campus, had expressed that they were extremely confident that academic freedom is not going to be an issue here.

In the case of the University of Warwick, its Vice Chancellor, in a letter to the *Straits Times* on 21st October 2005, said that many in Warwick's academic community would like the University to continue discussions with the EDB which he expected would end up with Warwick having a significant presence in Singapore. In the same letter, however, he said that the academic community in Warwick was concerned with the governance and financial structures being considered for the Singapore campus. EDB will continue to work with Warwick and we welcome them as before. However, Warwick will have to assess for itself and decide for itself whether a Singapore campus fits into their plans.

Warwick's decision has not affected our plans to attract leading foreign universities to establish a presence in Singapore. The EDB is in discussion with other renowned universities in the world to set up their presence in Singapore.

Dr Lily Neo: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the Minister whether there are out of bound markers that the campuses here must abide by and what are they, eg, are students allowed to hold protests here, and so on, and should such a marker be spelt out clearly and explained why they should be there?

Written Answers to Questions for Oral Answer Not Answered by 3.00 pm

The temporary heavy vehicle park will have 250 lots and is scheduled for completion in July 2006. It will be removed when the site is needed for future development, which is likely to be in five years' time.

WORKERS TRAVELLING IN LORRIES AND PICK-UP TRUCKS

(Numbers of injuries and fatalities)

28. **Prof. Ivan Png Paak Liang** asked the Minister for Transport if he will provide the numbers of injuries and fatalities to workers travelling in the cargo area of lorries and pickup trucks to or from the workplace in each of the years from 2000 to 2003.

Mr Yeo Cheow Tong:

Owners and hirers of goods vehicles are allowed to use their vehicles to transport their workers to their places of work or business, so as to reduce business cost. To ensure the safety of workers transported in the rear of such vehicles, the Land Transport Authority (LTA) has put in place a set of measures. For example, the workers must be safely seated at a height of not more than 3.2 metres from the ground and the vehicle must not travel faster than 60 km/h.

According to statistics provided by the Traffic Police, there were nine fatalities and 488 injuries to workers carried on the cargo decks of lorries and pick-up trucks in road accidents from 1st January 2000 to 31st December 2004. The breakdown is as follows:

- a) In 2000, there were 1 fatality and 94 injuries;
- b) In 2001, there were 2 fatalities and 115 injuries;
- c) In 2002, there were 1 fatality and 100 injuries;
- d) In 2003, there were 5 fatalities and 92 injuries; and
- e) In 2004, there were no fatalities and 87 injuries.

When normalised, this corresponds to an annual average fatality rate of 3.6 per 100,000 vehicles and an annual average injury rate of 196 per 100,000 vehicles. The fatality rate is about eight times lower and the injury rate is about six times lower than the annual average fatality and injury rates of all road accidents over the same period.

The LTA and the Traffic Police will continue to monitor the situation closely and conduct strict enforcement against lorry owners or drivers who violate safety rules when they are carrying workers on their vehicles.

SPORTS COMPLEX AT PASIR RIS DRIVE

29. **Dr Ahmad Mohd Magad** asked the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports when will the planned sports complex in Pasir Ris Estate be built.

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan:

I am pleased to inform Dr Ahmad that the construction of the Pasir Ris Sports Complex is currently scheduled to start in the second half of 2006 or early 2007, and it is