

Hot topics in the House

No hidden perks in ministerial salary structure

Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean set out at length yesterday what constitutes a minister's pay and stressed that the salary structure is transparent.

His explanation comes in the wake of online accusations that the Government has not been upfront about how ministerial salaries are calculated.

Mr Teo said all bonuses form part of an entry-level minister's \$1.1 million annual salary norm, and are not in addition to that amount. He also noted that ministerial pay has not changed since 2012, when an independent committee issued a White Paper on ministerial salaries after extensive consultation with MPs and the public.



What caused worst blackout in 14 years

The major blackout on Sept 18 was caused by trips in power-generating units at Sembcorp Cogen and Senoko Energy.

Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Koh Poh Koon noted, however, that both sets of equipment had been properly maintained in line with manufacturers' recommendations.

He was responding to MPs on the large-scale blackout which plunged some 146,500 customers in 19 areas into darkness. Power was fully restored within 38 minutes.



Changes to Parliamentary Elections Act

About 30 changes to the Parliamentary Elections Act are set to take effect before the next general election, which is due by 2021.

Parliament passed a law yesterday to make the running of elections more efficient, spelling out what to do when ballot papers are lost or destroyed, among other matters.

Other key changes include giving candidates the option to pay their election deposits through an electronic fund transfer or similar means.