

**6 April 2016**

**Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question on Online Voting**

**Question:**

Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong: To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether any Government studies have been undertaken on the feasibility of online voting for overseas Singaporeans using SingPass which can overcome security and secrecy concerns relating to postal voting; (b) if so, whether they can be made available; and (c) if such studies do not exist, whether the Government can share with Singaporeans the obstacles preventing these studies from being undertaken.

**Oral reply by Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister, Prime Minister's Office (for the Prime Minister):**

The Elections Department has studied the feasibility of Internet voting for overseas Singaporeans. While Internet voting may appeal to some, it has various challenges like difficulties in authenticating voters, preventing impersonation and ensuring voting secrecy. In addition, there are system reliability issues and security risks, such as vulnerability to hacking and cyber attacks. Auditing the voting results in the event of a petition to the Election Judge is also more challenging and potentially problematic.

The use of SingPass can only overcome the difficulties with authentication partially, but not the other challenges with Internet voting. For now, voting by paper ballot at polling stations is still the simplest and most transparent method of voting that can ensure the integrity and secrecy of our voting process.