

28 Feb 2019

Response by Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, for the Prime Minister, to Member of Parliament, Mr Pritam Singh, on Improving Election Processes during the Committee of Supply Debate 2019

Chair, on behalf of the Prime Minister, it has been the practice for the Prime Minister to appoint an Electoral Boundaries Review Committee to review the number, names and boundaries of electoral divisions ahead of a General Election. The Committee is made up of senior civil servants who are knowledgeable in demographic shifts and population statistics. The review report is presented as a White Paper to Parliament and released to the public once it is accepted by the Government.

2 In drawing up its recommendations, the Committee is guided by the terms of reference laid out by the Prime Minister. The Committee independently considers and determines how the constituencies are delineated, the size and configuration of the constituencies, as well as the total number of Members of Parliament to be returned. When reviewing the electoral boundaries, the Committee takes into account technical factors, such as population growth and shifts and other relevant parameters.

3 As a matter of practice, we should allow the Committee to focus on its work professionally, away from unnecessary media attention or public pressures. As with past elections, there will be sufficient time, from when the Committee's review report is made public to the time of the election, for candidates and political parties to make their preparations.

4 On Mr Singh's second question as to whether the Electoral Boundaries Review Committee has been formed yet, the answer is no.

5 As for the number of roadshows (to familiarise voters with e-Registration), as we have done in preparation for the last Presidential Election, we will continue to conduct roadshows as we move towards the next General Election.