

**May 19, 2015**

***Parliamentary Questions by the members Voordewind (ChristianUnion) and Van Laar (Labour Party) to the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Housing and the Civil Services on slavery and child labour in quarries [no. 2015Z08838]***

1. Are you familiar with the broadcasts of *Keuringsdienst van Waarde* <sup>1</sup> [“Inspection Service of Values”] on the origin of gravestones and with the report *Rock Bottom - Modern Slavery and Child Labour in South Indian Granite Quarries?* <sup>2</sup>

2. Are you willing to talk with Dutch companies and trade organisations in the granite- and gravestones sector to encourage them to perform active due diligence with regard to combatting slavery and child labour and improving working conditions?

3. Are you willing to raise the issue of slavery and child labour in granite quarries, which are also supplying to Western companies, with your Indian colleagues during your forthcoming visit to India and jointly take initiatives together to combat these abuses?

4. How do you intend to encourage that agreements are made in the three high risk sectors mentioned in the ‘CSR Sector Risk Analysis’ using or trading in natural stone (construction, wholesale and retail trade) about preventing and combating violations of labour – and human rights?

5. How will you ensure that the Dutch Government and other governments that use granite from India (or elsewhere) for - among others - buildings, monuments and paving, will prevent and combat the violations of labour rights as described in the report? How will you appeal to other authorities such as municipalities, provinces and water boards to address this issue?

6. Do you think that, given the seriousness of the issue in India, there should be an investigation into the labour conditions at suppliers for recent and ongoing projects in the field of granite, also resulting in recommendations for companies involved and the procurement of government agencies?

7. Do you believe that the broadcasts of *Keuringsdienst van Waarde* and the report *Rock Bottom* provide additional reasons to fully implement the recommendations presented to the Parliament in January 2015 in the report *Evaluatie sociale voorwaarden Rijksinkoopbeleid* (“Evaluation of social conditions Government Procurement”)? Are you prepared to inform the Parliament about this prior to the General Consultation scheduled on the 3rd of June?

8. How did you fulfil your commitment to engage with municipalities, provinces and water boards to promote socially responsible procurement, including by means of the *Toolkit Kinderarbeidvrij Inkopen door Overheidsinstanties* (“Toolkit Child Labour Free Procurement by Government Agencies”) of the Stop Child Labour coalition?

9. Are you prepared to answer the above questions prior to your working visit to India?

**Notes**

1) See: <http://www.npo.nl/artikelen/de-keuringsdienst-van-waarde-onderzoekt-de-grafsteen>

2) See: <http://www.indianet.nl/pb150511e.html>

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