

July 29, 2015

Parliamentary Questions by Member Van Laar (Labour Party) to the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation about half a million children working in the cotton seed production

Question 1

Are you familiar with the report "Cotton's Forgotten Children" by Dr. Davuluri Venkateswarlu?

Question 2

Do you believe that the estimate of almost half a million children in India working in the cottonseed production is realistic? Do you share the concerns about the still increasing number of children working in the cotton seed production in India?

Question 3

What opportunities do you see to have the number of working children further reduced in some areas and expand that to other regions?

Question 4

How do Dutch companies prevent that cotton from seed produced by children ends up in their products? Can they do more to prevent this? Do these companies also ensure that a living wage is paid in their production chain? If so, how? If not, why not?

Question 5

Have Dutch seed companies freed their supply chain of child labour? If so, how? Do you see opportunities to further expand further this approach? Do these companies also ensure that a living wage is being paid? If so, how? If not, why not?

Question 6

Do you endorse the 11 recommendations made in the report? What opportunities do you see for yourself and others to realize the implementation of these recommendations? Can this issue be addressed, for example, during a subsequent visit to India, or in bilateral contacts?