

October 11, 20162016Z18665

Parliamentary questions by Member Voordewind (ChristianUnion) to the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation on abuses at Indian tea plantations [2016Z18665]

Question 1

Have you taken note of the report *Certified Unilever Tea - A Cup Half Empty* of the India Committee of the Netherlands (ICN) on the substandard working conditions at the Rainforest Alliance certified Indian tea estates that supply to Unilever, including unequal treatment of temporary workers, inadequate compensation of overtime, inadequate precautions when working with pesticides, lack of freedom of association and not paying a living wage? ⁽¹⁾

Question 2

Do you agree that both Unilever and Rainforest Alliance, despite improvements since 2010, need to address the current problems in these and possibly other tea plantations speedily?

Question 3

Do you agree that Unilever should make concrete its commitment in a public plan of action that "... more needs to be done to raise the standards for workers on tea plantations and their families" in a public plan of action? ⁽²⁾

Question 4

Are you of the opinion that Unilever has to ensure that the tea plantations pay a living wage for their workers, which is higher than the official minimum wage? Are you prepared to urge Unilever to present a public plan, in which the transition to a living wage is formulated?

Question 5

What has been achieved thus far with the bringing into practice of the living wage approach in the ISEAL-Global Living Wage Coalition? ⁽³⁾

Question 6

What is your commitment to ensure that these and other initiatives in the field of International Corporate Social Responsibility (ICSR) will adopt a living wage as a standard in the foreseeable future and put it into practice?

Question 7

What is your commitment to ensure that the increasing pressure on freedom of association (including trade unions) and the freedom of expression in India will be raised as a matter of urgency on bilateral, European and multilateral level?

1) <http://www.indianet.nl/pb160830e.html>

2) <http://www.nu.nl/economie/4121721/misstanden-bij-theeveranciers-unilever.html>

3) <http://www.isealliance.org/our-work/improving-effectiveness/global-living-wage-coalition>