

**August 25, 2017**

**Parliamentary questions by the members Voordewind (ChristianUnion), Van den Hul (Labour Party) and Diks (GreenLeft) to the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the State Secretary for Infrastructure and Environment on modern slavery, child labour and unsafe and unhealthy work in Indian granite quarries that supply Dutch and European markets [no. 2017Z11101]**

**Question 1**

Are you familiar with the report *The Dark Sites of Granite: Modern Slavery, Child Labour and Unsafe Work in Indian Granite Quarries - What should companies do?*<sup>(1)</sup> and the various articles about it in the Dutch, Belgian, Indian, British and German media<sup>(2)</sup>?

**Question 2**

How do you assess the report and the recommendations in the report to companies and governments of both India and the Indian states, as well as the European Union (EU) and its member states?

**Question 3**

Are you willing to urge Dutch trade organisations and companies in the natural stone sector to make firm agreements in the covenant on International Corporate Social Responsibility that is now being negotiated, about systematically combating the very serious human rights violations described in the report?

**Question 4**

Are you also willing to ensure that the public procurement policies of the government and local authorities for the supply of granite and other types of stone will give preference to companies that are going to participate in the covenant and show that that actively (help to) combat abuses at suppliers?

**Question 5**

Are you going to raise the human rights violations described in the report in your bilateral contacts with the Indian government?

**Question 6**

Will you also urge the European Union to discuss the shocking situation in the Indian granite quarries thoroughly with India and to work on joint solutions?

**Question 7**

How will the recent ratification by the Netherlands of the 2014 ILO Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, be translated into new policies and new measures against forced labour in the supply chains of Dutch companies, including debt bondage in India?

**Question 8**

Are you prepared to submit this issues to your successors with a sense of urgency?

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

(2) [http://www.indianet.nl/media-aandacht\\_TheDarkSitesOfGranite.html](http://www.indianet.nl/media-aandacht_TheDarkSitesOfGranite.html)