

Child labour and the position of Dalits in India

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Questions of the Member Voordewind (Christian Union) to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation about 'Child labour and the position of Dalits in India'

1

Has it been possible, also in view of your answer to earlier questionsⁱ about a robust sustainability chapter in the EU-India free trade agreement, to reach an agreement that complies with the motion that has been adopted by Parliament on the issue?ⁱⁱ If not, are you going to withhold your support to the agreement? If not, why not?

2

Referring to your answer to question 5 about 'Child labour and the position of Dalits in India': 'The Indian government has in recent years introduced legislation to tackle child labour, forced labour and non-discrimination', can you inform the Parliament which legislation you are referring and how you assess its implementation.

3

Are you, in view of your answer to question 5, of the opinion that the critical report of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) about the implementation of fundamental labour rights in Indiaⁱⁱⁱ is too gloomy about the present situation in India? If so, on which sources do you base your different view and can you send the Parliament your substantiated analyses?

4

What do you, in view of your priority for the four fundamental labour rights, contribute to the better implementation of these rights in India, including via bilateral political contacts, the EU, the UN and the CSR policy?

5

Can you forward to the Parliament the 'Studies/analyses that claim that the position of Dalits is improving, for example in the state of Uttar Pradesh'? Are you of the view that those improvements are substantial and will strongly continue with the present approach of the Indian government? Or are you of the view that the Indian administration still needs to step up its efforts substantially to ensure the rights of Dalits in a number of areas?

6

Does your answer to question 7 about the implementation of the motion on the position of Dalits ('The human rights strategy of Dutch government states that effectiveness of policy is paramount and that in addition, interventions will be more selective') imply that you do have the intention to (fully) implement the motion? If so, why not, considering your earlier commitment to implement the motion? If not, what are you going to do to implement the motion?

7

Do you plan, both bilaterally and/or together with the European Commission to address the Indian government on the content of the report ‘Torture in India 2011’^{iv} of the Asian Centre for Human Rights, which inter alia shows that officially 14.231 persons have been registered since 2001 that have died in police custody or in prison, in almost all cases as the result of torture (figures that, according to the report, show only a small part of the real problem)?

8

What will be the targeted input of the Dutch government with regard to human rights in the preparation of as well as during the coming EU-India Summit and the human rights dialogue with India in spring?

9

Are you willing to send to Parliament an analysis/note about a situation of labour rights and human rights in India and link this to a multi-annual work programme? If not, why not?

10

Are you willing to answer the questions before 7 February in relation to the EU_India Summit which will be held in that week?

ⁱ See: <http://www.dalits.nl/pdf/kv111123e.pdf>

ⁱⁱ See: <http://www.dalits.nl/pdf/m101215e.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ See: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/india-workers-rights-require-more.html?lang=en>

^{iv} See: <http://www.dalits.nl/111121e.html>