

The Dutch House of Representatives

Meeting Year 2012-2013 Questions raised by the members of the House

Nr. 2013Z09018

Parliamentary questions by members Voordewind (Christian Union), Bonis (Labour Party) and Thieme (Party for the Animals) to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation on **financing of construction projects in India where labor rights and children's rights are violated** (submitted May 6, 2013)

1. Do you know the newspaper article '*Nederlands hulpgeld naar kinderarbeid in India*' ('Dutch aid money to child labour in India')¹?
2. What share has The Netherlands in the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and how much does Netherlands contribute financially?
3. What is your reaction to the study of local trade unions, supported by the FNV Federation and the international Global Unions Federation, showing that child labour, exploitation and other violations of labor rights occur in projects funded by the ADB?
4. Do you agree that the ADB does not take sufficient responsibility to prevent and combat violations of labor rights, involving stakeholders like trade unions, since the ADB states in a reaction that the responsibility lies with the borrower and not with the bank?
5. In what way do you want to apply the intentions, as stated in your policy paper on International Corporate Social Responsibility regarding the implementation of the OECD Guidelines, the ILO Conventions and the application of 'due diligence' in this situation?
6. What role can a 'labour desk' play in improving the handling of complaints and the monitoring of projects? Are you willing to use this instrument to apply 'access to remedy', as proposed in the Ruggie framework? Are you willing to focus your input on transparency, a complaints mechanism and a sanction mechanism, as is the case with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank?
7. What action will you undertake to improve the monitoring and sanctioning in ADB projects, since the Netherlands is a donor and shareholder of the ADB? What is your input to the shareholders meeting of the ADB in Delhi? Are you willing to inform the Parliament about the results?
8. Are you also willing to check the policy of the World Bank and other regional banks to which the Netherlands contributes with regard to the attention being paid to the prevention and combating of the violation of labour rights and if necessary to take action for improvement?

¹ NRC, May 1, 2013, <http://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2013/05/01/nederlands-hulpgeld-naarkinderarbeid-in-india/>