

**September 29, 2016**

***Parliamentary questions by Member Gesthuizen (Socialist Party) to the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation on the fact that Dutch companies are having garments produced in India below the minimum wage [no. 2016Z17672]***

**Question 1**

Can you give a reaction to the report '*Uitgekleed – Aangekleed*'<sup>(1)</sup>?

**Question 2**

Do you share the opinion that garment companies are responsible for the working conditions in their supply chains and that garment companies are responsible for ensuring that their subcontractors pay their workers at least the legal minimum wage?

**Question 3**

Are you willing to address the garment companies mentioned in the report on the fact that their subcontractors do not comply with local legislation relating to working conditions and minimum wage?

**Question 4**

Are you aiming to have these companies at least ensure that their subcontractors operate in accordance with the law and, if so, when do you expect that these companies have achieved this point?

**Question 5**

What efforts will you undertake to persuade the textile companies mentioned to provide their employees a living wage?

**Question 6**

How do you respond to the observation of C&A that all garment workers deserve to earn enough money to support their families, but that this is only possible if all companies involved do cooperate?<sup>(2)</sup> Do you think this does sufficiently explain that the average wage after deduction of fines in their factories ends up at one third of the living wage and that workers make much unpaid overtime? If not, how will you make it clear to them and the other companies surveyed that they, being final producer, are responsible for what happens in their supply chain?

**Question 7**

What role does the pursuit of a living wage play in your policy and how is this reflected in the textile covenant?

**Question 8**

What options do consumers currently have to ascertain under what circumstances the clothes they buy are made? Will in this context specific attention be paid to the wage received by the workers of a textile factory and how this wage relates to the minimum and living wage?

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- (1) <http://www.indianet.nl/pb160927.html>; more elaborate version of this report in English: '*Doing Dutch - A research into the state of pay for workers in garment factories in India working for Dutch fashion brands*', see <http://www.indianet.nl/pb160927e.html>
  - (2) <http://www.indianet.nl/pdf/ReactiesBedrijven.pdf>

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