

**September 4, 2017**

**Parliamentary Questions by the member Hijink (Socialist Party) to the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation *on the news that granite is being quarried by children's hands* [no. 2017Z11381]**

**Question 1**

Have you heard the news that natural stone sold in the Netherlands has been quarried by Indian children?<sup>(1)</sup>

**Question 2**

How many Dutch companies are to blame for importing natural stone contaminated by child labour?

**Question 3**

How many children are working in Indian natural stone quarries? What is their relative share compared to the total number of people working in this sector?

**Question 4**

What kind of influence does child labour in Indian natural stone quarries have on the lives of these children?

**Question 5**

Can the mining of natural stone in your opinion be classified as heavy labour? Do you share the opinion that this is not a work that should be performed by children?

**Question 6**

Are you going to raise the issue with your colleagues in India? If so, what will be the message?

**Question 7**

What is the current status of the natural stone covenant? Are the companies mentioned in the report involved in the drafting of the covenant?

**Question 8**

Are companies involved in drafting and signing the covenant expected to already comply with "due diligence" rules and other aspects of international corporate social responsibility?

**Question 9**

What sanctions will be included in the covenant? Is the information on child labour in Indian granite quarries a reason to strengthen this?

**Question 10**

What sanction do companies face when they fail to comply with the Child Labour Due Diligence law if they do not submit a statement on child labour in their supply chain, or submit a declaration while child labour is nevertheless found in their supply chain?

**Explanation:**

These questions are a supplement to previous questions about this subject by the members Voordewind (ChristianUnion), Van den Hul (Labour Party) and Diks (GreenLeft), submitted on August 25, 2017 (<http://www.indianet.nl/pdf/kv170825e.pdf>), and by the members Sazias and Van Brenk (both 50PLUS), submitted on August 29, 2017 (<http://www.indianet.nl/pdf/kv170829e.pdf>).

[translation by ICN: <http://www.indianet.nl/pdf/kv170904.pdf>]

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(1) <https://nos.nl/artikel/2189345-graniet-uit-indiase-kinderarbeid-mijnen-te-koop-in-nederland.html>