

Uncorrected minutes of General Discussion (Regarding these minutes no rights can be obtained)

The Hague, 2 October 2013

Member of Parliament De Wit (Socialist Party)

I have another question to the Secretary of State – my second question – in relation to the discussion of December 2012. Then we discussed lengthily about a problem with an adoption from India. The Secretary of State then finally promised the Parliament that he would as soon as possible inform us about the outcome of a conversation between the Minister and the Secretary of State with the Indian authorities. That was the only thing the Secretary seemed prepared to do. Afterwards we heard nothing any more, as far as I know. I ask the Secretary of State to come back to that.

Secretary of State Teeven (Justice):

MP De Wit has made some remarks about India. I remember that this subject was an important part of the previous Adoption Meeting. I am sorry by the way, that the current Adoption Meeting was postponed five times. Ms. Berndsen already said something about it. I have every time prepared and put aside again. But it is good that we speak about it today.

I had promised to invite the ambassador of India for discussion, to achieve that I would get the outcome of the criminal investigation of the Central Bureau of Investigation. I have done this. I have first spoken with the ambassador of India, at the department. After that I have spoken with the minister of justice of India, here in The Hague. From that discussion it appeared that in India only information is given about an investigation of the Central Bureau of Investigation into irregularities, when that information in India becomes public during a judicial process. That was not yet the case at the moment when I spoke with the ambassador and the minister. I did receive last week, 24 September, the investigative report through the Embassy. This is so recent that I have not yet been able to inform the Parliament about the outcome in writing. We also received afterwards additional information by phone.

The results of the report of 24 September show that in the framework of the investigation 12 suspects have been arrested and that the license of the home Malaysian Social Services by the Indian adoption authority was withdrawn. The opinion of the investigators is that the boy was taken from his parents with as objective monetary gain. The direct involvement of the director and the staff of the home has been proven. These outcomes have been the reason for the drafters to formulate the act of indictment against the 12 suspects. At the moment it is not yet known when the Court process will take place. The boy, the adoptive parents and the Foundation Meiling have in the meantime been informed about the investigation. I fully agree with Mr. De Wit that it took long, but finally all cups of coffee led to the arrival of the information.