GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1201
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2021

SIGNING OF THE G7 SUMMIT AGREEMENT ON FREE SPEECH

1201. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed the G7 agreement on free speech which affirmed, "freedom of expression, both online and offline, as a freedom that safeguards democracy and helps people live free from fear and oppression";

(b) whether signing such a statement contradicts the rise in sedition cases in the country, rise in use of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, and the frequent resort to the internet shutdowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof including steps being taken by Government to act on its commitment made by signing the agreement; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH]

(a) No. India did not sign any Agreement with G7 countries at the G7 Cornwell Summit in June 2021. However, the Leaders adopted the 'Open Societies Statement' at the Summit.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Not applicable.

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