

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2711
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021

G7 AGREEMENT

2711. DR. AMAR SINGH:
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian 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" and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government believes that signing such a statement contradicts the rise in sedition cases in India against dissenters and critics of the Government, rise in use of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act against such persons and the frequent resort to internet shutdowns;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the steps being taken by the 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) G7 countries at the Cornwall Summit in June 2021 adopted the 'Open Societies Statement'.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Not applicable.
