

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2247
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022**

PRESS FREEDOM

2247. SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Germany and the European Union has expressed concern over press freedom and arrest of journalists in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of reaction and response of the Government/Ministry of External Affairs thereon?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]**

(a) & (b) The German Foreign Office spokesperson referred to the issue in response to a question on a specific case, which is subjudice in India. With the EU, such matters are broadly discussed within the framework of the India-EU Human Rights Dialogue.

(c) During his press briefing on 7 July 2022, the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs responded to the German spokesperson's comments, highlighting that the case is subjudice in India. The Spokesperson also mentioned the well-recognized judicial independence in India and that uninformed comments are unhelpful and should be avoided.
