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Q62

In the context of Indian history, the principle of 'Dyarchy (diarchy)' refers to (a) Division of the central legislature into two houses. (b) Introduction of double government i.e., Central and State governments. (c) Having two sets of rulers; one in London and another in Delhi. (d) Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories. Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)

Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

Division of the central legislature into two houses is bicameralism, introduced in a different sense by the **Government of India Act, 1919** at the centre. That is not what dyarchy means. This option is not the key.

(b)

Double government as Centre and provinces is a federal or devolutionary arrangement, not the technical meaning of dyarchy in Indian constitutional history. This option is therefore wrong.

(c)

Two sets of rulers in London and Delhi describes the Secretary of State / Governor-General dual control in a loose way, not the 1919 dyarchy device. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

Dyarchy under the **Government of India Act, 1919** split provincial subjects into transferred (ministers responsible to the legislature) and reserved (Governor and executive council). That division of provincial subjects into two categories is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories. Dyarchy (Montagu-Chelmsford) put some provincial heads under Indian ministers and kept others reserved to the Governor. Bicameralism, Centre-province duality, and London-Delhi dual control are different ideas. The 1935 Act ended provincial dyarchy and introduced provincial autonomy. Only (d) is the textbook definition.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

GoI Act 1919

Introduced dyarchy in the provinces

Transferred subjects

e.g. education, health, local self-government, agriculture

Reserved subjects

e.g. police, finance, land revenue, law and order

GoI Act 1935

Ended provincial dyarchy; proposed it at the Centre (not fully worked)

Montagu-Chelmsford

Report that recommended the 1919 reforms

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