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Q26

The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to (a) Define the jurisdiction of the Central and Provincial Governments. (b) Define the powers of the Secretary of State for India. (c) Impose censorship on national press. (d) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States. 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)**

(a) Define jurisdiction of Central and Provincial Governments. That is closer to the later **Simon**-federalism debates, not the **Butler Committee**'s charge. Not the key.

(b)

(b) Define powers of the Secretary of State for India. **Butler** did not exist to redraw the Secretary of State's statutory powers. Not the key.

(c)

(c) Impose censorship on the national press. Unrelated to **Butler**. Not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States. The **Indian States Committee** (**Butler Committee**, 1927) examined **paramountcy** and the States' relation with the Government of India. This is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States. Harcourt **Butler**'s 1927 committee advised on the future of princely States vis-à-vis British India and held that **paramountcy** must remain with the Crown. It did not draw provincial boundaries, rewrite the Secretary of State's office, or censor the press. **Chamber of Princes** (1920) is the neighbouring States institution.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Butler Committee

Indian States Committee, 1927

Paramountcy

Crown supremacy over the States

Chamber of Princes

1920 consultative body

Simon Commission

Also 1927; statutory commission

Instrument of Accession

1947 States integration tool

Political Department

Handled States under the Raj

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