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Q15

**The Trade Disputes Act of 1929 provided for (a) the participation of workers in the management of industries. (b) arbitrary powers to the management to quell industrial disputes. (c) an intervention by the British Court in the event of a trade dispute. (d) a system of tribunals and a ban on strikes. 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) Participation of workers in management. That idea is later industrial-democracy language, not the 1929 Act. It is not the key.

**(b)**

(b) Arbitrary powers to management to quell disputes. The Act did not simply hand managers a free truncheon. It is not the key.

**(c)**

(c) Intervention by the British Court in a trade dispute. The statute set up a domestic tribunal route, not routine British-court takeover. It is not the key.

**(d) Official key**

(d) A system of tribunals and a ban on strikes. The **Trade Disputes Act, 1929** provided **Courts of Inquiry** / Conciliation Boards and made certain strikes and lockouts illegal (especially in public utility services without notice). That is the official key.

**Summary**

Official key is (d) a system of tribunals and a ban on strikes. The 1929 Act created inquiry and conciliation machinery and criminalised specified strikes and lockouts, particularly sudden strikes in public utilities. It was a colonial industrial-relations statute, not workers' participation in management and not a blank cheque of arbitrary managerial power. The later **Trade Disputes Act, 1947** and the **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947** are the neighbouring laws.

**Related possible facts**

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

**Trade Disputes Act**

1929, British India

**Public utility strikes**

Notice required; illegal if sudden

**Courts of Inquiry**

Fact-finding under the Act

**Industrial Disputes Act**

1947, independent India

**Trade Union Act**

1926, legalised unions

**Meerut Conspiracy**

1929 labour-politics context

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