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Q1

Consider the following statements: 1. In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the Swatantra Party 2. In the Lok Sabha, a "Leader of the Opposition" was recognised for the first time in 1969. 3. In the Lok Sabha, if a party does not have a minimum of 75 members, its leader cannot be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2018 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

Indian Constitution, polity, rights, governance - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

(a) 1 and 3 only. Statement 1 is false: the single largest opposition party in the first Lok Sabha (1952) was the Communist Party of India, not the Swatantra Party, which was founded in 1959 and peaked later. Statement 3 is also false: recognition as Leader of the Opposition requires 10 percent of the House strength (55 in a 545-member Lok Sabha), not 75 members. A pairing of two wrong statements cannot be the key.

(b) Official key

(b) 2 only. **(b) Official key:** After the 1969 Congress split, Ram Subhag Singh was recognised as the first Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Statement 1 fails because Swatantra was not the first-Lok-Sabha opposition; statement 3 fails because the 10 percent rule, not a 75-member floor, governs recognition. Only statement 2 stands, so this letter is the key.

(c)

(c) 2 and 3 only. Statement 2 is right, but statement 3 misstates the numerical test for LoP recognition. The Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977, and Speaker practice use one-tenth of the House, not 75. Adding a wrong third statement keeps this code off the key.

(d)

(d) 1, 2 and 3. This treats all three as true. The first-Lok-Sabha opposition claim and the 75-member rule are both incorrect, so the all-correct code is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 only. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha was first recognised in 1969 after the Congress split. Swatantra Party did not lead the opposition in the first Lok Sabha; CPI did. Recognition needs about 10 percent of membership, not 75 MPs. Honour the stored letter (b).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

First Lok Sabha largest opposition

Communist Party of India

Swatantra Party founded

1959 (C. Rajagopalachari)

First LoP, Lok Sabha

Ram Subhag Singh, 1969

LoP numerical test

10 percent of House strength (55 in LS)

LoP statute

Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977

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