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Q67

With reference to solar power production in India, consider the following statements: 1. India is the third largest in the world in the manufacture of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units. 2. The solar power tariffs are determined by the Solar Energy Corporation of India. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2018 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK

Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 only. India is not the world's third-largest maker of silicon wafers for PV; it imports most wafers and cells' upstream silicon. Statement 1 is false, so it cannot stand alone as the answer. This option is not the key.

(b)

(b) 2 only. Solar tariffs in India are discovered mainly through competitive bidding and adopted by CERC/SERCs; **SECI** is a CPSU implementer and offtaker, not the tariff-setting regulator. Statement 2 is false. This option is not the key.

(c)

(c) Both 1 and 2. Both statements fail, so "both" cannot be right. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) Neither 1 nor 2. India lacks that wafer-manufacturing rank, and **SECI** does not determine solar tariffs. Neither statement is correct. This option is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) Neither 1 nor 2. Silicon-wafer manufacturing is concentrated in East Asia; India was not third in the world on that metric. Solar Energy Corporation of India runs tenders and may be offtaker, but tariff adoption sits with the electricity regulators after bid discovery. Both given statements are therefore wrong. The WRAP key is (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

SECI

CPSU under MNRE; solar tenders and offtake, not the tariff code

CERC / SERCs

Determine or adopt electricity tariffs under the Electricity Act, 2003

MNRE

Union ministry for new and renewable energy

PV value chain

Polysilicon → wafer → cell → module

NSM

National Solar Mission as the policy umbrella

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