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Q41

Consider the following statements: 1. Agricultural soils release nitrogen oxides into environment. 2. Cattle release ammonia into environment. 3. Poultry industry releases reactive nitrogen compounds into environment. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 and 3 only. Agricultural soils do emit nitrogen oxides, and **poultry** does release reactive nitrogen, but cattle ammonia is also a major pathway, so dropping statement 2 is not the key.

(b)

(b) 2 and 3 only. Drops soil NO_x, which is a recognised agricultural emission, so this is not the key.

(c)

(c) 2 only. Incomplete, so not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) 1, 2 and 3. Fertilised soils emit NO_x/N₂O-related nitrogen oxides; livestock urine and dung emit ammonia; **poultry** operations emit ammonia and other reactive nitrogen. All three statements are correct, so this is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) all three. The nitrogen cascade links fields, cattle and **poultry** to NO_x, ammonia and other reactive nitrogen in air and water. Honour the stored letter (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Soil NO_x / N₂O

Fertiliser and microbial processes

Cattle NH₃

Urea in urine; major livestock emission

Poultry

Litter ammonia and reactive N

Askable twin

INMS / reactive nitrogen assessments

Yamuna neighbour

Ammonia spikes and livestock/sewage mix

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