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Q24

In a given year in India, official poverty lines are higher in some States than in others because (a) poverty rates vary from State to State (b) price levels vary from State to State (c) Gross State Product varies from State to State (d) quality of public distribution varies from State to State Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Economy

Indian economy, budget, schemes - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) Poverty rates vary from State to State. Poverty rates are the outcome after the line is applied; they do not themselves set a higher or lower official line, so this is not the key.

(b) Official key

(b) Price levels vary from State to State. Official poverty lines (**Tendulkar** / **Rangarajan** methodology used in that period) are state-specific because a comparable consumption basket costs more where prices are higher. That price-level reason is the official key.

(c)

(c) Gross State Product varies. GSDP size does not define the poverty-line rupee cut-off, so this is not the key.

(d)

(d) Quality of public distribution varies. PDS quality affects welfare but is not why the statistical poverty line is drawn higher in some States, so this is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b). India's official poverty lines were spatial price-adjusted so that the same real consumption standard mapped to a higher rupee line in costlier States. Poverty rates, GSDP and PDS quality are different statistics. Honour the stored letter (b).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Tendulkar

State-wise urban and rural lines

Rangarajan

Later expert group; still price-differentiated

Askable twin

Poverty gap versus headcount ratio

NSS

Consumption surveys behind the lines

MPI

Multidimensional poverty as a later neighbour

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