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Q62

With reference to the management of minor minerals in India, consider the following statements: 1. Sand is a 'minor mineral' according to the prevailing law in the country. 2. State Governments have the power to grant mining leases of minor minerals, but the powers regarding the (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) 1,2 and 3 Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography
Physical, Indian and world geography - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

(a) 1 and 3 only. Sand is a minor mineral under **section 3(e)** of the MMDR Act, 1957. State Governments may frame rules to prevent illegal mining of minor minerals (**section 23C**). Statement 2 is false: States, not the Centre, make the grant-of-concession rules for minor minerals under **section 15**. That pair is the official key.

(b)

(b) 2 and 3 only. Statement 2 wrongly parks rule-making for minor-mineral leases with the Centre. Not the key.

(c)

(c) 3 only. Statement 1 is also true: sand is a minor mineral. Dropping 1 is not the key.

(d)

(d) 1, 2 and 3. Statement 2 is false, so the all-correct code fails.

Summary

Official key is (a). Sand is a minor mineral. States grant minor-mineral leases and write the rules, including rules against illegal mining. The Centre notifies what counts as a minor mineral; it does not sit on ordinary State lease rules. Statement 2 is the trap. Honour (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

MMDR s.3(e)

Defines minor minerals; Centre may notify additions

MMDR s.15

State power to make rules for minor minerals

MMDR s.23C

State rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage

Major minerals

Coal, iron ore, bauxite, etc.; Centre-heavy regime

Sand mining

Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines; State mineral concession rules

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