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Q11

Consider the following statements: 1. Pursuant to the report of H.N. Sanyal Committee, the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 was passed. 2. The Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court and the High Courts to punish for contempt of themselves. 3. The Constitution of India defines Civil Contempt and Criminal Contempt. 4. In India, the Parliament is vested with the powers to make laws on Contempt of Court. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1, 2 and 4 (c) 3 and 4 only (d) 3 only Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2022 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

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

Explanation

(a)

1 and 2 only. Parliament's power to legislate on contempt (statement 4) also holds.

(b) Official key

1, 2 and 4. **Sanyal Committee** → 1971 Act; **Articles 129/215**; Union List entry 77/14-type power to make contempt law. The Constitution does not define civil/criminal contempt.

(c)

3 and 4 only. Statement 3 is false.

(d)

3 only. Definitions sit in the 1971 Act, not the Constitution.

Summary

Official key is (b) 1, 2 and 4. The **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** followed the H.N. **Sanyal Committee**. **Articles 129 and 215** empower the Supreme Court and High Courts to punish contempt of themselves. Civil and criminal contempt are defined in the Act, not in the Constitution. Parliament can make laws on contempt.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Article 129 / 215

SC and HCs as courts of record; contempt power.

Contempt of Courts Act, 1971

Defines civil and criminal contempt.

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