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Q90

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which one of the following is the largest source of sulphur dioxide emissions ? (a) Locomotives using fossil fuels (b) Ships using fossil fuels (c) Extraction of metals from ores (d) Power plants using fossil fuels Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2024 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Locomotives. A source of SO₂, not the EPA's largest.

(b)

Ships. Marine fuel sulphur is regulated; not the top EPA source.

(c)

Metal extraction. Smelters emit SO₂; not the largest EPA category here.

(d) Official key

Fossil-fuel power plants. EPA's largest SO₂ source.

Summary

Official key is (d) power plants using fossil fuels. The US EPA has long identified coal- and oil-fired electricity generation as the largest source of sulphur dioxide. Locomotives, ships and ore smelting emit SO₂ but are not the top EPA category in this question.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Sulphur dioxide

From burning sulphur-bearing fossil fuels; precursor of acid rain.

Environment (Protection) Act (EPA)

United States Environmental Protection Agency; tracks criteria air pollutants.