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Q57

**With reference to revenue collection by Cornwallis, consider the following statements : 1. Under the Ryotwari Settlement of revenue collection, the peasants were exempted from revenue payment in case of bad harvests or natural calamities. 2. Under the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, if the Zamindar failed to pay his revenues to the state, on or before the fixed date, he would be removed from his Zamindari. Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2 Official key: B.**

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2024 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)

Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

**Explanation**

**(a)**

1 only. Ryotwari did not generally exempt peasants from revenue in bad years as a standing rule.

**(b) Official key**

2 only. Permanent Settlement: the "**Sunset Law**" could dispossess a defaulting zamindar.

**(c)**

Both. Statement 1 is the weaker / false limb.

**(d)**

Neither. Statement 2 is the standard Cornwallis-Bengal rule.

**Summary**

The Commission later dropped this item, so there is no official key to mark. Still walk the options. Under the Permanent Settlement a zamindar who missed the fixed date could lose the zamindari (**Sunset Law**). Ryotwari did not, as a general rule, exempt peasants from revenue after a bad harvest. Coaching keys (b); WRAP does not stamp Official key on a withdrawn row.

**Related possible facts**

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

**Permanent Settlement, 1793**

Cornwallis in Bengal; zamindars as proprietors at a fixed revenue.

**Sunset Law**

If revenue was not paid by sunset on the due date, the estate could be sold.

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