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(Affiliated to CBSE up to +2 Level)

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(i) For which values of a and b does the following pair of linear equations have an infinite number of solutions?

$$2x + 3y = 7$$

(a - b)x + (a + b)y = 3a + b - 2

(ii) For which value of k will the following pair of linear equations have no solution?

$$3x + y = 1$$

 $(2k - 1)x + (k - 1)y = (2k + 1)$
Solution:

(i) Equations are

$$2x + 3y = 7$$
 ... (i)
 $(a - b)x + (a + b)y = 3a + b - 2$... (ii)

For infinitely many solutions,

$$\frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{b_1}{b_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2} \implies \frac{2}{a-b} = \frac{3}{a+b} = \frac{7}{3a+b-2}$$

Now, on comparing

$$\frac{2}{a-b} = \frac{3}{a+b} \implies 2(a+b) = 3(a-b) \implies 2a+2b = 3a-3b$$

$$\Rightarrow a-5b = 0 \qquad ... (iii)$$

and on comparing

$$\frac{3}{a+b} = \frac{7}{3a+b-2} \Rightarrow 3(3a+b-2) = 7(a+b)$$

$$9a+3b-6=7a+7b \Rightarrow 2a-4b=6$$

⇒ a – 2b = 3 Solving (iii) and (iv) for a and b

By cross multiplication method.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
a & b & -1 \\
-5 & 0 & 1 & -5 \\
-2 & 3 & 1 & -5 \\
-2 & & & & & & & & & & \\
\frac{a}{-15-0} & = \frac{b}{0-3} & = \frac{-1}{-2+5} \Rightarrow \frac{a}{-15} & = \frac{b}{-3} & = \frac{-1}{3} \Rightarrow a = 5 \text{ and } b = 1
\end{array}$$

(ii) Equations are

$$3x + y = 1$$
 and $(2k - 1)x + (k - 1)y = 2k + 1$

For no solution

$$\frac{3}{2k-1} = \frac{1}{k-1} \neq \frac{1}{2k+1} \qquad \Rightarrow 3(k-1) = 2k-1$$

$$\Rightarrow 3k-3 = 2k-1 \qquad \Rightarrow k = 2$$
and
$$\frac{1}{k-1} \neq \frac{1}{2k+1} \qquad \Rightarrow 2k+1 \neq k-1 \Rightarrow k \neq -2$$

$$\boxed{k=2} \text{ and } \boxed{k \neq -2}$$