**Bonded Labour Offences**

**The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976**

- **Section 09:** Accepting payment against any bonded debt
- **Section 16:** Enforcement of bonded labour
- **Section 17:** Advancement of bonded debt
- **Section 18:** Extracting bonded labour under the bonded labour system
- **Section 19:** Omission/failure to restore possession of property to bonded labourers
- **Section 20:** Abetment of an offence

**Indian Penal Code**

- **Section 374:** Unlawful compulsory labour
- **Section 370:** Trafficking of persons
- **Section 370A:** Exploitation of a trafficked person
- **Section 371:** Habitual dealing in slaves

**SC & ST Act**

- **Section 3(1)(h):** Making a member of SC/ST to do ‘begar’ or other forms of forced or bonded labour
- **Section 3(1)(z):** Forcing or causing a member of SC/ST to leave his house, village or other place of residence

**Bonded Labour Elements**

**Forfeited Freedom/Rights**

1. Freedom of employment
2. Right to move freely throughout India
3. Right to receive the legal minimum wage
4. Right to sell goods and services at market value

**Debt/Obligations**

1. Advance
2. Customary or social obligation
3. Succession
4. Other economic consideration
5. Caste or community

Freedom/rights are forfeited because of debt/obligations

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Role of the Police in **RESCUE**

- Police receive information
- Police forward the information to the RDO for inquiry
- Police assist the RDO in rescue/inquiry
- RDO issues Release Certificates
- Police assist in repatriation and protection of victims

Role of the Police in **PROSECUTION**

- Police receive information
- Police register FIR
- Police conduct criminal investigation
- Police consider arrest
- Police record 161 statements
- Police file charge sheet
- Trial