

Constitution of India Art 23 - Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour

(1) Traffic in human beings and begar and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.

(2) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from imposing compulsory service for public purposes, and in imposing such service the State shall not make any discrimination on grounds only of religion, race, caste or class or any of them.

SYNOPSIS

Cited in Sankaranarayanan 2017

Forced Labour—Prisoners serving rigorous imprisonment can be subject to exaction of hard labour, *State of Gujarat v. High Court Gujarat*, (1998) 7 SCC 392.

Minimum Wages—Non-payment of minimum wage, whether by the State or by private parties is forced labour and prohibited by this provision, *PUDR v. Union of India*, (1982) 3 SCC 235.

Forced Labour—Violative of Article 23 of the Constitution. *People's Union for Democratic Rights v. Union of India*, (1982) 3 SCC 235.