

Penal Code of Bangladesh: Section 22

Movable Property:

- **Definition:** Corporeal property of all descriptions, excluding land and items attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.
- **Key Points:**
 - Includes tangible, movable objects.
 - Excludes immovable property like land or buildings.
 - Examples: Vehicles, furniture, jewelry.

Immovable Property:

- **Definition:** Refers to land and items attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.
- **Key Points:**
 - Includes things like land, buildings, and trees.
 - Cannot be moved without altering or damaging the property.
 - Contrasts with movable property, which can be physically relocated.

Penal Code of Bangladesh: Section 23

Wrongful Gain:

- **Definition:** Gaining property by unlawful means to which the person gaining is not legally entitled.
- **Key Points:**
 - Occurs when a person acquires property without legal right.
 - The opposite is **wrongful loss**, where someone loses property they are legally entitled to.
 - Involves both the intent to gain and the lack of legal entitlement to the property.

Penal Code of Bangladesh: Section 339

Wrongful Restraint:

- **Definition:** The act of intentionally preventing someone from proceeding in any direction in which they have the right to go.
- **Key Points:**
 - Involves obstructing a person from moving freely.
 - Does not necessarily involve physical force; mere obstruction suffices.
 - The restraint must be wrongful, meaning there is no legal justification for the action.

Penal Code of Bangladesh: Section 340

Wrongful Confinement:

- **Definition:** The act of wrongfully restraining a person by circumscribing them within certain limits, preventing them from proceeding beyond those limits.
- **Key Points:**
 - Involves restricting someone's freedom within a defined boundary.
 - More severe than wrongful restraint, as it completely confines the person.
 - The confinement must be without legal justification.

Chapter V-A, Criminal Conspiracy, Section 120A

Criminal Conspiracy:

- **Definition:** An agreement between two or more persons to commit an illegal act, or a legal act by illegal means.
- **Key Points:**
 - The mere agreement to commit an offense constitutes criminal conspiracy, even if the act itself is not carried out.
 - Requires at least two persons involved in the agreement.
 - The act conspired must be illegal, or the means of achieving a legal act must be illegal.

Chapter 3, Punishments, Section 75 - Enhanced Punishment

Enhanced Punishment:

- **Applicable Offenses:** For those convicted under Chapter 12 (offenses related to public servants) or Chapter 17 (offenses against property) of the Penal Code.
- **Repeat Offenders:** If a person, after being convicted of such an offense, commits the same or a similar offense again.
- **Punishment:**
 - Can include imprisonment for life.
 - Alternatively, imprisonment of either description (rigorous or simple) for a term up to ten years.

Chapter II: General Explanations - Section 21

Definition of "Public Servant":

The term "public servant" includes:

1. **Military, Naval, and Air Force Officers:** Commissioned officers in the armed forces of Bangladesh.
2. **Judges:** Any person empowered by law to perform adjudicatory functions.

3. **Court Officers:** Officers of a Court of Justice responsible for judicial duties such as maintaining documents, executing processes, and preserving order.
4. **Jurors and Assessors:** Individuals assisting a Court of Justice.
5. **Arbitrators:** Persons to whom matters are referred by courts or other public authorities for decision or report.
6. **Detention Officers:** Individuals with the authority to confine persons.
7. **Government Officers:** Officers whose duties include preventing offences, bringing offenders to justice, and protecting public health, safety, or convenience.
8. **Revenue Officers:** Officers responsible for managing government property, conducting surveys, or executing revenue processes.
9. **Electoral Officers:** Persons authorized to prepare, publish, or revise electoral rolls or conduct elections.
10. **Other Government Employees:** Those in service or pay of the Government, local authorities, or government-owned corporations.

Explanations:

- **Explanation 1:** The term includes all individuals who fit these categories, regardless of appointment status by the Government.
- **Explanation 2:** Anyone in possession of the duties of a public servant is considered one, even if there is a legal defect in their right to hold that position.

Chapter VIII: Of Offences Against the Public Tranquillity - Section 141

Definition of "Unlawful Assembly":

An "unlawful assembly" is an assembly of five or more persons with a common object to commit any of the following:

1. **Resistance to Legal Authority:** To overawe the Government or public servants in the lawful exercise of their power.
2. **Committing Offences:** To commit any mischief, criminal trespass, or other offenses.
3. **Enforcing Rights:** To enforce any right or supposed right by committing or threatening violence.
4. **Dispossession of Property:** To deprive any person of the enjoyment of a right of way, or the use of water or other incorporeal rights of which he is in possession or enjoyment.
5. **Compelling Actions:** To compel any person to do what he is not legally bound to do or to omit what he is legally entitled to do by means of criminal force or show of criminal force.

If the common object of the assembly falls within any of these categories, it is classified as an "unlawful assembly," and all members are liable for the actions committed by the assembly. **(Section 149)**

- **Section 142:** States that anyone who, intentionally or knowingly, joins or continues in an unlawful assembly is considered a member of that assembly.
- **Section 143:** Provides the punishment for being a member of an unlawful assembly, which can extend up to six months of imprisonment, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 144:** Addresses the situation where an unlawful assembly is armed with deadly weapons. The punishment increases to imprisonment of up to two years, or a fine, or both.

- **Section 145:** Penalizes the joining or continuing in an unlawful assembly, knowing that it has been commanded to disperse. This offense can result in imprisonment for up to two years, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 149:** Establishes the collective liability of every member of an unlawful assembly. If an offense is committed by any member of the assembly in the prosecution of the common object, every member of that assembly is deemed guilty of the offense.

Unlawful Assembly and Related Offenses:

Rioting

- **Section 146:** Defines "rioting" as the use of force or violence by an unlawful assembly or any member thereof in pursuit of the common object.
- **Section 147:** Specifies the punishment for rioting, which can extend to two years of imprisonment, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 148:** Provides harsher penalties for rioting if the rioters are armed with deadly weapons, with imprisonment that may extend to three years, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 150:** Penalizes anyone who hires or engages another person to join or form an unlawful assembly, with the same penalties as a member of that assembly.
- **Section 151:** Provides punishment for knowingly joining or continuing in an assembly of five or more persons likely to cause a disturbance of public peace after being commanded by a public servant to disperse, with imprisonment up to six months, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 152:** Penalizes assaulting or obstructing a public servant attempting to disperse an unlawful assembly, with imprisonment up to three years, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 153:** Criminalizes provocation with the intent to cause a riot, punishable with imprisonment up to one year, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 153A:** Addresses promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or visible representations or otherwise, punishable with imprisonment up to three years, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 154:** Provides punishment for negligent conduct regarding the possession of explosive substances, firearms, or other dangerous weapons, which is likely to cause injury, punishable with imprisonment up to six months, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 155:** Penalizes the owner or occupier of land or property who negligently or knowingly permits its use for the purpose of unlawful assembly or for riotous acts, with imprisonment up to six months, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 156:** Imposes liability on an agent or manager of land used for an unlawful assembly or riot, who negligently or knowingly permits such use, punishable with imprisonment up to six months, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 157:** Penalizes harboring persons known to be members of an unlawful assembly or rioters, with imprisonment up to one year, or a fine, or both.
- **Section 158:** Imposes punishment for being armed with a deadly weapon at an unlawful assembly, with imprisonment up to two years, or a fine, or both.

Affray

- **Section 159:** Defines "affray" as the fighting of two or more persons in a public place to the disturbance of the public peace.

- **Section 160:** Penalizes those guilty of affray with imprisonment up to one month, or a fine up to one hundred taka, or both.

Chapter IV: General Exceptions - Sections 76 to 79

Section 76: Act Done by a Person Bound or Believed to be Bound by Law

Explanation: This section protects a person who commits an act under the belief that they are legally bound to do so. If a person performs an act in good faith under the authority of the law, they are not liable for any criminal offense resulting from that act.

Scenario: A police officer receives a court order to arrest a specific individual. The officer, acting on this order, arrests someone who closely resembles the individual named in the order. Later, it is discovered that the officer arrested the wrong person. Since the officer genuinely believed he was bound by law to make the arrest, he is protected under Section 76.

Section 77: Act of Judge when Acting Judicially

Explanation: This section provides immunity to judges for acts done in the course of their judicial duties. A judge is not liable for any offense committed by actions taken in good faith while performing their judicial functions.

Scenario: A judge passes a sentence based on the evidence presented during a trial. Later, it is found that the evidence was forged. Since the judge acted in good faith and within the scope of judicial authority, they are protected under Section 77, even though the sentence was based on incorrect information.

Section 78: Act Done Pursuant to the Judgment or Order of Court

Explanation: This section protects individuals who act under the judgment or order of a court of law. If someone carries out an action as directed by a court, they are not criminally liable for that action.

Scenario: A jailer receives an order from the court to execute a convicted prisoner. The jailer carries out the execution as per the court's directive. Even though the act of execution would normally be considered murder, the jailer is protected under Section 78 because he was acting under a lawful court order.

Section 79: Act Done by a Person Justified, or Believed to be Justified, by Law

Explanation: This section provides immunity to a person who, in good faith, believes that their actions are justified by law. If someone performs an act under the mistaken belief that they are legally justified, they are not held criminally liable.

Scenario: A homeowner hears noises late at night and believes a burglar has entered the house. The homeowner attacks the intruder, believing they are justified in protecting their property. However, it turns out the intruder was a friend who had come to visit. Since the homeowner genuinely believed their actions were justified by law, they are protected under Section 79.

Chapter IV: General Exceptions - Sections 96 to 106

Right of Private Defence

The right of private defence allows individuals to protect themselves, others, or property against unlawful aggression. The right is not unlimited and is subject to certain restrictions:

Section 96: Things Done in Private Defence

- **Explanation:** Nothing is an offense which is done in the exercise of the right of private defence.

Section 97: Right of Private Defence of the Body and Property

- **Explanation:** Every person has the right to defend:
 1. **Their own body and the body of any other person** against any offense affecting the human body.
 2. **Property (whether movable or immovable) of themselves or others** against theft, robbery, mischief, or criminal trespass.

Section 98: Right of Private Defence Against the Act of a Person of Unsound Mind, etc.

- **Explanation:** The right of private defence extends even against an act done by a person who, due to unsoundness of mind, intoxication, or under a misconception of fact, would not be considered legally responsible for their actions.

Section 99: Acts Against Which There is No Right of Private Defence

- **Explanation:** The right of private defence does not apply in the following situations:
 1. **Against actions done by a public servant** in good faith under color of their office, even if the act is not strictly justifiable by law.
 2. **Against actions done by someone acting under the direction of a public servant** in good faith.
 3. **Where there is time to seek protection from public authorities.**
 4. **More harm than necessary** cannot be inflicted for the purpose of defence.

Section 100: When the Right of Private Defence of the Body Extends to Causing Death

- **Explanation:** The right of private defence of the body extends to causing death if the assault causes:
 1. **Reasonable apprehension of death:** When the assault creates a reasonable fear of death.
 2. **Reasonable apprehension of grievous hurt:** When the assault causes a reasonable fear of severe injury.
 3. **Rape:** An assault with the intention of committing rape.
 4. **Kidnapping or Abduction:** An assault with the intention of kidnapping or abducting.
 5. **Unnatural Lust:** An assault with the intention of gratifying unnatural lust.
 6. **Wrongful Confinement:** An assault with the intention of wrongfully confining someone, causing the person to fear they won't be able to seek help from public authorities for release.

Section 101: When Such Right Extends to Causing Any Harm Other Than Death

- **Explanation:** If the offense does not fall within the parameters of Section 100, the right of private defence of the body only extends to causing any harm other than death.

Section 102: Commencement and Continuance of the Right of Private Defence of the Body

- **Explanation:** The right of private defence of the body begins when a reasonable apprehension of danger to the body arises and continues as long as such apprehension of danger to the body continues.

Section 103: When the Right of Private Defence of Property Extends to Causing Death

- **Explanation:** The right of private defence of property extends to causing death if the offense is:
 1. **Robbery.**
 2. **House-breaking** by night.
 3. **Mischief by fire** on a dwelling house.
 4. **Theft, mischief, or house-trespass** under such circumstances as may reasonably cause the apprehension that death or grievous hurt will be the consequence if the right of private defence is not exercised.

Section 104: When Such Right Extends to Causing Any Harm Other Than Death

- **Explanation:** If the offense does not fall within the conditions of Section 103, the right of private defence of property extends only to causing any harm other than death.

Section 105: Commencement and Continuance of the Right of Private Defence of Property

- **Explanation:** The right of private defence of property begins when a reasonable apprehension of danger to the property arises and continues until such apprehension of danger ends. It includes the protection of the property from attempted acts of theft, robbery, mischief, or criminal trespass.

Section 106: Right of Private Defence Against Deadly Assault When There is a Risk of Harm to an Innocent Person

- **Explanation:** If an individual faces an assault that reasonably causes the apprehension of death, and they cannot exercise their right of private defence without risking harm to an innocent person, the right still extends to the potential harm caused to the innocent person, in the necessity of defending against the deadly assault.

Chapter V: Of Abetment - Sections 107 to 120

Section 107: Definition of Abetment

- **Explanation:** A person abets a crime if they:
 1. **Instigate** someone to commit an offense.
 2. **Engage in a conspiracy** to commit an offense, and an act or illegal omission occurs as a result.
 3. **Intentionally aid** someone in committing an offense through any act or illegal omission.

Section 108: Abettor

- **Explanation:** A person who abets an offense is called an "abettor." Even if the principal offense is not committed, the person who instigated, conspired, or aided can still be charged as an abettor.

Section 109: Punishment for Abetment If the Act Abetted Is Committed

- **Explanation:** If the act abetted is committed in consequence of the abetment, the abettor is liable to the same punishment as the principal offender.

Section 114: Abettor Present When Offense Is Committed

- **Explanation:** If an abettor is present when the offense is committed, they are treated as if they committed the offense themselves.

Section 108A: Abetment in Bangladesh of Offenses Outside It

- **Explanation:** A person who, in Bangladesh, abets the commission of an offense in another country is liable under Bangladeshi law as if the offense had been committed within Bangladesh.

Section 110: Punishment for Abetment if the Person Abetted Does the Act with a Different Intention

- **Explanation:** If the abettor instigates an act with a specific intention, but the person who commits the act does so with a different intention, the abettor is liable as if the act was done with the intention instigated.

Section 111: Liability of Abettor When One Act Is Abetted and a Different Act Is Done

- **Explanation:** If an abettor instigates one act, but a different act is committed, the abettor is liable if the act done was a probable consequence of the abetment.

Section 112: Abettor's Liability for Different Acts

- **Explanation:** When an act is abetted and another act is committed in consequence, the abettor is liable for both acts if the latter was a probable consequence of the abetment.

Section 113: Liability of Abettor for an Offense Resulting from a Different Act

- **Explanation:** If a different offense is committed as a consequence of abetment, and it is a probable consequence of the abetment, the abettor is liable for that offense.

Section 115: Abetment of an Offense Punishable with Death or Imprisonment for Life

- **Explanation:** If a person abets an offense that is punishable with death or life imprisonment but the offense is not committed, the abettor is liable to imprisonment up to seven years and a fine. If an act is done to carry out the abetted offense but the offense is not completed, the abettor may face imprisonment up to 14 years.

Section 116: Abetment of an Offense Punishable with Imprisonment

- **Explanation:** If a person abets an offense punishable with imprisonment but the offense is not committed, the abettor faces half the punishment intended for the offense. If any act is done to carry out the abetted offense, the abettor faces the full punishment as if the offense had been committed.

Section 117: Abetment of Offenses by the Public or by More than Ten Persons

- **Explanation:** If a person abets the commission of an offense by the public or by more than ten persons, they are liable to imprisonment up to three years, or a fine, or both.

Section 118: Concealing Design to Commit an Offense Punishable with Death or Life Imprisonment

- **Explanation:** If someone knows of a design to commit an offense punishable by death or life imprisonment and voluntarily conceals it, they can be punished with imprisonment up to seven years or 14 years if the offense is committed.

Section 119: Public Servant Concealing Design to Commit an Offense

- **Explanation:** If a public servant conceals a design to commit an offense that he is bound to prevent, he is liable to punishment equal to the abetted offense.

Section 120: Concealing Design to Commit an Offense Punishable with Imprisonment

- **Explanation:** If someone voluntarily conceals a design to commit an offense punishable with imprisonment, they are liable to half the punishment for that offense.

Chapter XIV: Of Offenses Affecting the Public Health, Safety, Convenience, Decency, and Morals

Section 268: Public Nuisance (Definition)

A person is guilty of a public nuisance if:

1. **They do any act** or are guilty of an illegal omission.
2. **This act or omission causes** common injury, danger, or annoyance to the public or people in general in the vicinity.
3. **It must necessarily cause** injury, obstruction, danger, or annoyance to persons using any public right.

- **Section 269: Negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine, or both.
- **Section 270: Malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 2 years, or fine, or both.
- **Section 271: Disobedience to quarantine rule**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine, or both.

- **Section 272: Adulteration of food or drink intended for sale**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 273: Sale of noxious food or drink**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 274: Adulteration of drugs**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 275: Sale of adulterated drugs**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 276: Sale of drug as a different drug or preparation**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.

- **Section 277: Fouling water of public spring or reservoir**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 3 months, or fine, or both.
- **Section 278: Making atmosphere noxious to health**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 3 months, or fine, or both.

- **Section 279: Rash driving or riding on a public way**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 280: Rash navigation of a vessel**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 281: Exhibition of false light, mark, or buoy**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 7 years, or fine, or both.
- **Section 282: Conveying person by water for hire in unsafe or overloaded vessel**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine, or both.
- **Section 283: Danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation**
Punishment: Fine up to 200 taka.

- **Section 284: Negligent conduct with respect to poisonous substance**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 285: Negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 286: Negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 287: Negligent conduct with respect to machinery**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 288: Negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.
- **Section 289: Negligent conduct with respect to animal**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine up to 1,000 taka, or both.

- **Section 290: Punishment for public nuisance in cases not otherwise provided for**
Punishment: Fine up to 200 taka.
- **Section 291: Continuance of nuisance after injunction to discontinue**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine, or both.

- **Section 292: Sale, etc., of obscene books, etc.**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 3 months, or fine, or both.
- **Section 293: Sale, etc., of obscene objects to young persons**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 3 years, or fine, or both.
- **Section 294: Obscene acts and songs**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 3 months, or fine, or both.

- **Section 294A: Keeping lottery office**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine, or both.
- **Section 294B: Offering for sale or publishing lottery tickets**
Punishment: Imprisonment up to 6 months, or fine, or both.

Section 161: Public Servant Taking Gratification Other than Legal Remuneration

- **Key Points:**
 1. **Acceptance of Gratification:** A public servant commits an offense if they accept, agree to accept, or attempt to obtain any gratification (benefit or reward) other than what is legally due, in return for doing or forbearing to do any official act.
 2. **Favoritism:** The offense includes showing or forbearing to show favor or disfavor in the exercise of their official functions.
 3. **Service or Disservice:** The offense also covers rendering or attempting to render any service or disservice to any person with the Government or Legislature, or with any other public servant.
 4. **Punishment:** Imprisonment up to 3 years, or with fine, or both.

Section 165: Public Servant Obtaining Any Valuable Thing Without Consideration

- **Key Points:**
 1. **Valuable Gifts:** It is an offense for a public servant to accept or obtain any valuable thing without consideration, or for a consideration known to be inadequate, from someone concerned in any proceeding or business they are transacting.
 2. **Influence on Decisions:** The offense covers situations where the valuable thing might influence the public servant's official duties or decisions.
 3. **Punishment:** Imprisonment up to 2 years, or with fine, or both.

Section 168: Public Servant Unlawfully Engaging in Trade

- **Key Points:**
 1. **Conflict of Interest:** It is an offense for a public servant, who is legally prohibited from engaging in trade, to engage in trade or business.
 2. **Punishment:** Simple imprisonment up to 1 year, or with fine, or both.

Section 169: Public Servant Unlawfully Buying or Bidding for Property

- **Key Points:**
 1. **Property Acquisition:** A public servant who unlawfully buys or bids for property related to their official duties commits an offense.
 2. **Punishment:** Simple imprisonment up to 2 years, or with fine, or both; the property may also be confiscated.

Section 170: Personating a Public Servant

- **Key Points:**
 1. **False Representation:** It is an offense to falsely represent oneself as a public servant.

2. **Punishment:** Imprisonment up to 2 years, or with fine, or both.

Section 171: Wearing Garb or Carrying Token Used by Public Servant with Fraudulent Intent

- **Key Points:**

1. **Impersonation:** Wearing uniforms or carrying tokens resembling those of a public servant with fraudulent intent is an offense.
2. **Punishment:** Simple imprisonment up to 3 months, or with fine up to 200 taka, or both.

Section 178: Refusing to Take Oath or Make Affirmation

Explanation in Simple Terms:

- **Obligation to Take Oath/Affirmation:**
 - When a **public servant** (such as a judge, magistrate, or police officer) **lawfully requires a person to take an oath or make an affirmation** during legal proceedings or official inquiries.
- **Refusal to Comply:**
 - **If the person refuses to take the oath or make the affirmation**, they are committing an offense under this section.
 - This refusal can obstruct the course of justice or impede official proceedings.

Purpose of the Section:

- To **ensure the integrity and solemnity of legal proceedings** by obligating individuals to commit to truthfulness through oaths or affirmations.
- To **prevent obstruction of justice** by penalizing non-compliance.

Punishment:

- **Simple Imprisonment:**
 - **Duration:** Up to **six months**.
- **Fine:**
 - Up to **one thousand rupees**.
- **Or Both:**
 - The offender can be subjected to **both imprisonment and fine** depending on the circumstances and discretion of the court.

Illustrative Example:

- **Scenario:**
 - During a court hearing, a witness is called upon to testify. Before giving testimony, the judge asks the witness to take an oath to speak the truth.
- **Offense:**
 - If the witness **refuses to take the oath or make an affirmation**, despite being lawfully required to do so, they are committing an offense under Section 178.
- **Consequences:**

- The witness can be **prosecuted and penalized** as per the punishments prescribed in this section.
-

Section 179: Refusing to Answer Public Servant Authorized to Question

Explanation in Simple Terms:

- **Legal Duty to Answer Questions:**
 - When a **public servant** is **legally authorized to ask questions** regarding certain matters (e.g., during investigations, inquiries, or official duties), an individual is **legally bound to provide truthful answers**.
- **Refusal to Answer:**
 - **If the individual refuses to answer such questions**, they are committing an offense under this section.
 - The obligation exists **even if the answer could potentially incriminate the individual**, unless protected by specific legal provisions.

Purpose of the Section:

- To **facilitate effective functioning of public authorities** by ensuring individuals provide necessary information when lawfully required.
- To **aid in the administration of justice and enforcement of laws** by penalizing non-cooperation.

Punishment:

- **Simple Imprisonment:**
 - **Duration:** Up to **six months**.
- **Fine:**
 - Up to **one thousand rupees**.
- **Or Both:**
 - The offender can face **both imprisonment and fine** based on the severity and context of the offense.

Illustrative Examples:

1. **Police Investigation:**
 - **Scenario:**
 - During a lawful investigation, a police officer asks a person questions related to a crime they witnessed.
 - **Offense:**
 - If the person **refuses to answer without any lawful excuse**, they are committing an offense under Section 179.
 - **Consequences:**
 - The individual can be **arrested and prosecuted**, facing penalties as prescribed.
2. **Government Inquiry:**
 - **Scenario:**
 - A government official conducting an inquiry into public fund misuse asks relevant questions to an employee involved in the project.
 - **Offense:**

- If the employee **refuses to provide information**, they violate Section 179.
- **Consequences:**
 - The employee may be **subjected to legal action and penalties** under this section.

Exceptions and Protections:

- **Right Against Self-Incrimination:**
 - Individuals may have protections under other laws (e.g., constitutional rights) **against self-incrimination**, which can be considered as lawful excuses for refusal.
- **Legal Privileges:**
 - Certain communications (e.g., attorney-client privilege) may be **protected**, and refusal to disclose such information may not constitute an offense under this section.