

Delay in Surrogacy bill

Why in news?

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There is a delay in the report on the contours of the controversial Surrogacy Regulation Bill, 2016.

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What is status of surrogacy in India?

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- Surrogacy is a method or agreement whereby a woman agrees to carry a pregnancy for another person or persons, who will become the new born child's parent(s) after birth.
- India has emerged as a surrogacy hub for couples from different countries.

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- There have been reported incidents concerning unethical practices of surrogacy across country.
- Incidents such as exploitation of surrogate mothers, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy and rackets of intermediaries importing human gametes and embryos were also reported.

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What are the features of Surrogacy bill?

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- The Surrogacy Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 2016. \slashn
- The Bill will ensure effective regulation of surrogacy. \slashn
- It prohibits commercial surrogacy.

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- It allows ethical surrogacy to the needy infertile couples. $\space{\space{1.5}n}$
- Protects rights of surrogate mother and children born out of surrogacy. $\slash n$
- The law will apply to whole of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- All Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics will be registered. $\space{1mm}\s$

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What are the issues with the committee?

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- It was referred to the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, with public asked to send suggestions by the last date of 13 April, 2017. \n
- Thereafter, an extension was sought till 11 July, and further extension is claimed by the committee till 11 September, 2017. \n
- No explanation has been given for why this crucial piece of pending legislation has missed the last session of Parliament. \n
- There is also lack of clarity on how many times committees can ask for such extensions. \sc{n}
- This 10-member committee, in which the ruling government has only three members, is chaired by Ram Gopal Yadav. \n

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Source: First Post

