

## **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.

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- The Bill will ensure effective regulation of surrogacy.

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- It prohibits commercial surrogacy.

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- It allows ethical surrogacy to the needy infertile couples.
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- Protects rights of surrogate mother and children born out of surrogacy.
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- The law will apply to whole of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
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- All Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics will be registered.
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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.
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- Thereafter, an extension was sought till 11 July, and further extension is claimed by the committee till 11 September, 2017.
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- No explanation has been given for why this crucial piece of pending legislation has missed the last session of Parliament.
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- There is also lack of clarity on how many times committees can ask for such extensions.
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- This 10-member committee, in which the ruling government has only three members, is chaired by Ram Gopal Yadav.
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**Source: First Post**

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