

Q) Do you think that the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill does not do enough to Secure Women's choices and interests? Critically Analyze

Ans:-

Union Cabinet has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The bill seeks to extend the termination of pregnancy period from 20 weeks to 24 weeks, it make easier for women to safely and legally terminate an unwanted pregnancy.

Need of the Amendment

1) Currently, women seeking termination of pregnancy beyond 20 weeks face cumbersome legal recourse (As per MTP-1971)

1) Obstetricians agree that the legal consequences lead this women to choose informal and unsafe abortion services, this even leading to death of the Mother

2) Earlier law of (Medical Termination of Pregnancy - 1971) takes too much time for decision making by Medical Practitioners.

3) Original law (MTP-1971) states, if a minor wants to terminate pregnancy written consent of from the Guardian needed, new law excluded this provision

Advantages of New Bill

1) It is helpful, when some abnormalities in foetus detected after 20th week, Pregnant women able to terminate pregnancy

2) Helpful for Rape victims, Minors, Single unmarried women etc (Earlier the termination of pregnancy not allowed to unmarried women)

3) In new bill up to 20 weeks, the termination of pregnancy needs opinion of one Medical Practitioner (Gynaecologist 2) and above 20 weeks need the opinion of 2 medical practitioners, help to effective decision making.

Issues In New Bill

- 1) Late termination may get Conflict with Viability of foetus.
- 2) Further leads to issues like Sex determination etc.
- 3) Only 7 countries in world allowed late abortion apart from India, most of countries against this practice.

The new MTP-2020 is a step in right direction, but government needs to ensure that all the norms and standardised protocols in clinical practices to facilitate abortions are followed in health care institutions across the country.