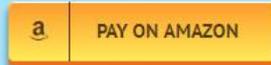


December 24th, 2018 Sample Current Affairs

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1. India bans commercial surrogacy to stop 'rent a womb' exploitation of vulnerable women

- What does the Surrogacy Regulation Bill, 2016 aim to do?
- Why was the Bill necessary?
- What maternity benefits would a commissioning mother be entitled to?
- Is the Bill newly passed different from the one cleared by the Cabinet in 2016?

GS paper 2 (Government polices and schemes)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

Abantika Ghosh.

(2018, December , 24). Surrogacy Bill, then & now. Indian Express. Retrieved from

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/surrogacy-bill-then-now-5503047/>

What is the context about?

- On Wednesday, Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016.
- India has banned commercial surrogacy after parliament passed a bill ending the country's reputation as a 'rent a womb' haven for childless couples.

- ❑ The new law's supporters say it will also protect vulnerable women from being exploited by unscrupulous agents for wealthy Indian clients seeking to jump adoption queues.

What does the Surrogacy Regulation Bill, 2016 aim to do?

- ❑ It seeks to put an end to commercial surrogacy — payment to a surrogate mother is punishable by up to five years imprisonment — and also has safeguards built in against sex selection of the baby.
- ❑ The Bill proposes to allow altruistic, ethical surrogacy to intending infertile Indian married couples between the ages of 23-50 (female) and 26-55 (male).
- ❑ It limits the option to only legally married childless couples who have been trying for a child for at least five years.
- ❑ The commissioning couple cannot have a surviving child either biological or adopted, except when they have a child who is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from a life-threatening disorder with no permanent cure.

Why was the Bill necessary?

- ❑ There have been several reports about the exploitation of surrogate mothers, women who are kept confined in “hostels” during pregnancy and not allowed to meet their families, women who do it repeatedly for a paltry amount thus putting their own bodies at risk.

- The Bill seeks to put an end to that.

What maternity benefits would a commissioning mother be entitled to?

The Bill does not take that into account. These are covered by labour laws; the law on maternity benefits does not take into account the possibility of a woman becoming a mother without actually giving birth.

Is the Bill newly passed different from the one cleared by the Cabinet in 2016?

- There are changes, including a reduction of punishment. The earlier version provided for a minimum jail term of 10 years for some offences; the present one sets a maximum of 10 years.
- The present Bill forbids the surrogate mother to use her own gametes (eggs), gives her the option to withdraw before the embryo is implanted, and puts a condition for obtaining a “certificate of essentiality” that the intending couple needs —they must provide a 16-month insurance coverage for the surrogate mother including postpartum complications.
- The Bill did not make several changes sought by the Standing Committee.