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.

- It allows ethical surrogacy to the needy infertile couples.
- Protects rights of surrogate mother and children born out of surrogacy.
- The law will apply to whole of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- All Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics will be registered.

What are the issues with the committee?

- 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.
- Thereafter, an extension was sought till 11 July, and further extension is claimed by the committee till 11 September, 2017.
- No explanation has been given for why this crucial piece of pending legislation has missed the last session of Parliament.
- There is also lack of clarity on how many times committees can ask for such extensions.
- This 10-member committee, in which the ruling government has only three members, is chaired by Ram Gopal Yadav.

Source: First Post