

Q3

What are the issues surrounding surrogacy?

Does the recently passed Surrogacy Bill address these concerns?

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A.

Surrogacy is a bio-medical process in which genetic material from an egg of a female is taken & fertilized inside an egg from a second female (surrogate) to produce healthy zygote and then an embryo (baby).

Recently passed surrogacy bill has closed the doors for economic surrogacy & left option for altruistic surrogacy only that too with family relative only. Option for surrogacy for gay couples, singles person, healthy couples out of wedlock couples is also not provided.

These provisions are aimed at stopping the exploitation of poor women in the country who opt to be surrogate mothers for financial gains. ~~The~~ Altogether banning the economic surrogacy is a step in reverse direction & may push the industry underground. This is subjecting surrogate mothers to more exploitation. Right step could have been regulating surrogacy via contracts & allowing willing females to go for joyful employment.

Same new marriages already stand decriminalised & people involved in same gender marriage could have been provided the option of surrogacy as well as single person

Denying healthy couples the option of surrogacy is justifiable only if females are going for it to avoid non-medical problems (like change in figure etc.)

The present bill in its present form falls short on various fronts, surrogacy is only a final step. There is very less focus on the process & infrastructure like cold storage etc preceding that. There ~~is~~ could have been an infrastructure creation & regulation so that associated costs were kept in check. Also the option

for economic surrogacy may well be explored to create gainful employment & foreign currency