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Bill on surrogacy evokes mixed response

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MUMBAI: The Centre's bill prohibiting commercial surrogacy has evoked a mixed response, with some welcoming it while others raising doubts over its efficacy.

The Lok Sabha had last month passed the bill that bars commercial surrogacy and allows the process only by close relatives for 'altruistic' reasons.

Surrogacy refers to a contract whereby a woman carries a pregnancy and gives birth to a child for another person or another couple, who will ultimately be the baby's parent(s).

National Commission for Women's former member Nirmala

Samant Prabhawalkar said the bill has been brought to regulate the "uncontrolled" practice of surrogacy, but it still has some "grey areas".

"There was massive exploitation which forced the regulation, but there is scope to improve the legislation further," she said.

Another Mumbai-based advocate Siddh Vidya said she was in favour of making the laws tough, but found the term 'altruistic' a bit unrealistic.

PCMC to issue notices to illegal mutton, chicken shops from today

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NAVI MUMBAI: The Panvel City Municipal Corporation (PCMC) will begin issuing notices to illegal mutton and chicken shops across its jurisdiction from Monday.

The civic body will take action against the shop owners under the municipal corporation act. The action comes after the high court order had passed an order regarding this. Some pork shops have also cropped up in the municipal corporation staff quarters in Valmiki Nagar, Panvel. The PCMC's licensing department had not issued any permission to these shops.

Activists and members of the state animal welfare board are upset to find a large number of mutton and chicken shops operating openly in the PCMC area. The civic body has never acted against such shops, despite the high court order stating that the slaughter houses must be housed separately.

The state animal welfare board advocate Siddh Vidya said, "We met the PCMC commissioner recently and had raised the issue of illegal chicken and mutton shops coming up in the PCMC area."

Activist Anarjit Chauhan said, "It is surprising to see the chicken and mutton shops operating in PCMC area. The