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FROM PARLIAMENT

14-day notice mandatory for employees to go on strike

▶ The government has proposed to make a 14-day prior notice mandatory for employees to go on strike under new labour laws, Labour minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar said on Wednesday, reports DHNS. "If there is a strike in any unit, they (employees) would have to inform at least 14 days in advance," he said in Rajya Sabha. This is part of the new labour law which the government is bringing and the ministry is in touch with the various state governments, Gangwar said. Noting that the government is bringing reforms in labour laws, the minister said as part of that, it is clubbing 44 labour laws into four codes.

Opposition attack govt on economic slowdown

▶ Opposition on Wednesday pounded the government over the state of economy accusing it of forcing the country into a deep crisis where people don't have enough money to even buy day-to-day articles before they walked out of Rajya Sabha during a discussion, reports DHNS.

Parties like Congress, Trinamool Congress, CPI(M) and CPI among others walked out during Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's reply to the short duration discussion on economy accusing her of not responding to specific demands of non-payment of GST to states, disinvesting PSUs and price rise among other issues. Initiating the discussion, senior Congress MP Anand Sharma said the government cannot claim that the current slowdown in the economy is a "cyclical phenomenon".

In 'rare feat', LS takes up all 20 starred questions for oral replies

▶ The Lok Sabha on Wednesday took up all the 20 queries listed for oral replies during the Question Hour — arare feat in the recent history, reports DHNS. The Lok Sabha can generally take up only four or five questions along with supplementary queries by the members for oral replies by the ministers during the Question Hour from II am to 12 noon. However, the House on Wednesday could take up all the 20 questions marked as "starred" and listed for oral replies during the Question Hour.

Lower House passes bill to ban e-cigarettes

▶ Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a bill that seeks to ban electronic cigarettes, with Health Minister Harsh Vardhan saying such a measure was necessary to protect the youth from a new intoxication being promoted by companies as a new "fashion", reports PTI. The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019, seeks to replace an ordinance issued on September 18. The statutory resolution moved by opposition members to oppose the ordinance were defeated by a voice vote.