

Indo-China. Xhey welcomed the signing of the peace agreement on Vietnam at Paris and hoped that it would lead to a durable peace not only in Vietnam but also in the neighbouring countries of Laos and Cambodia.

Prince Souvanna Phou.uraa emphasized the importance of the role of the ICSC in the wake of a ceasefire in Laos and expressed toe hope that India would play her roJe in restoring lasting peace to Laos and safeguarding her independence, sovereignty and neutrality. Our Prime Minister assured him of India's earnest desire to help in this task.

The two Prime Ministers also dismissed bilateral matters.

H

(c) Does not arise.

CRITICISM ON THE PERFORMANCE BHARAT COKING COAL LTD.

1437. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI BALACHANDRA ME-
NON;

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten-ion has been drawn to the serious riticism made by the Mine Owners' Association*) regarding tine performance if the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. if so, vhat is the reaction of Government;

(br) whether it is a fact that the roduction of coking coal is declining *>hile the cost of production thereof 5 going up; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA IANSDA-): (a) There haa been some riticism by the Mine Owners' Asao-iation regarding the performance ol harat Coking Coal Ltd. However, le performance of the company ©an e said to be on the whole satisfactory.

Ob) White the production of coking >al is more or less being maintained

the despatches to washeries and steel plants have improved. While accurate information of the cost of production before take-over by the Government is not available, the cost of production has since been generally steady.

(c) Does not arise.

INDIA SUPPLY SERVICE

1438. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: WiH the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared India Supply Service (I.S.S.) as a technical service;

(b) if so, the details of the technical qualifications prescribed by Government for I.S.S. personnel who are appointed as Dy. Director, Director and D.D.G. in the Offices of the DGS & D and I.S.M., London and Washington; and

(c) if not, the precise reasons for the appointment of I.S.S. personnel to such posts ignoring the legitimate claims of the employees belonging to other services who are working in the same Department or elsewhere in Government of India?

THE MINISTER Of SUPPLY (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) The Indian Supply Service is a technical service in the sense that except 'for a very smaAl promotion quota only persons ' with techniaai qualifications are recruited to this service. Direct recruitment is made only to the lowest grade of the service viz., Grade III, through the Combined Competitive Examinations oanducted by the UPSC for recruitment to the Engineering Services (Class I). The technical qualifications prescribed for candidates for eKgdbiMty to take this examination is a degree in various branches of engineering. The posts of Deputy Director, Director and Deputy Director General which are Grade II, Grade I and Super-time scale posts of this serviee, are filled IOO per cent by promotion from the lower grades.

(c) Does not arise.