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TRAPPED

Miner seeks help from highups for release of son jailed in Iran

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DHANBAD: A miner working at Sizua colliery in Jharia has been knocking different doors—from deputy commissioner's (DC) office to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)—seeking release of his son locked in a jail in Iran for around 10 months.

According Deena Nath, his younger son Kunal Gaur, 21, along with a Kolkata youth, had gone to Saudi Arabia through a private contractor for employment in a private company in February 2017. They were further sent to Iran for 10-day training in March. However, the ship they were travelling in was seized by the Iran Revolutionary Guard and all on-board were arrested on charges of possessing fake entry papers.

"One month later in April, I

received information through father of Kunal's Kolkata friend about the development. I rushed to Kolkata to contact the contractor, who sent his son, but failed to get in touch with him," Nath said.

Deena Nath, a resident of Deoria district in Uttar Pradesh, has been working with Tata Steel collieries for 17 years. Nath said his son Kunal after completing intermediate took admission in merchant navy course in Kolkata and completed it in 2016.

"Last year, a contractor offered him a job in Saudi Arabia and demanded Rs 2.50 lakh for processing of visa and other papers. Kunal and his Kolkata friend paid the amount. They were brought to Mumbai from Kolkata by train and sent to Saudi Arabia by air. After a stay of five days in Saudi Arabia, Kunal along with other job aspirants were

sent to Iran for 10-day training by a ship when they were caught," Nath said.

The hapless father said he had submitted an application in the office of deputy commissioner (DC), Dhanbad for release of his son in April last. Since there was no development, he knocked door of chief minister Raghubar Das' office.

"On suggestions of people close to me, I also went to New Delhi and submitted applications in the external affairs ministry and the PMO as well, but no help has come from anyone," he said.

Nath said being a resident of Uttar Pradesh he was also suggested to meet chief minister Yogi Adityanath. "In September I submitted application in Yogi's office in Lucknow but got no response," he lamented.

"It seems I am left with no option but to resign to my

PLIGHT OF DESPERATE FATHER

- Dhanbad miner Deena Nath's son Kunal Gaur, 21, is locked in a jail in Iran for around 10 months
- Gaur along with his Kolkata youth, had gone to Saudi Arabia through a private contractor for employment in a private company in February 2017
- They were further sent to Iran for 10-day training in March
- The ship they were travelling was seized by the Iran Revolutionary Guard and all on-board were arrested on charges of possessing fake entry papers
- The hapless father has knocked doors of DC, CMs of Dhanbad and UP, PMO and external affairs ministry



KUNAL GAUR

fate," he added.

Jharkhand revenue and land reforms minister Amar Kumar Bauri, who represented Jharkhand at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in New Delhi, said he was seized of the matter and has brought it to the notice of external affairs

minister Sushma Swaraj.

"The external affairs minister took the matter seriously and directed the officials to give status report of Kunal and initiate immediate step for getting him released from Iran prison," said the minister over phone.