

Migrant workers from Malaysia return home

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DHANBAD: At least 12 of 47 migrant labourers from Jharkhand, who were employed as contract workers at a Malaysian firm in Kuala Lumpur, returned home on Wednesday afternoon.

The first batch of 15 labourers arrived in India on August 14. However, about 27 workers are still in Malaysia due to "technical issues".

The group arrived at Parasnath railway station on Wednesday morning and then continued their journey to Bagodar, their hometown.

The workers hail from different areas in Giridih, Hazaribagh, Bokaro and other districts.

Former Bagodar CPI (ML) MLA Binod Singh, who was in regular contact with the Indian ambassador in Malaysia to ensure the safe arrival of the workers, said the Malaysian company seized their passports upon arrival.

"The workers were not paid proper wages and were treated badly. A few workers were imprisoned after their visa's expired," Singh said, adding that after receiving news about a Giridih-based migrant labourer in Malaysia, he contacted the concerned embassy and other government officials in this regard to initiate further action.

"Apart from holding back 4-5 months' payment, the company also seized our passports and visa till we informed concerned

government officials in India and Malaysia through Singh. We were issued visas recently. We also got back our passports", said labourer Ramlal Paswan of Bagodar.