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Government dragging its feet over filling safety posts in railways

VADODARA: Government talks about safety in railways but not efforts are being made to fill up the posts that can help in preventing accidents, J G Mahurkar, vice president of National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) said here on Thursday. Mahurkar addressed hundreds of railway employees at the Electric Loco Shed in Navayard. The Western Mazdoor Railway Sangh (WRMS) had held demonstrations over numerous demands that are pending with the government.

"We had deferred an all-India strike on July 21 after the government promised to look into our demands. A committee was formed to look into the matter and was asked to submit its report in three months," the railway veteran said.

"We have demanded that the recommendations made in the seventh pay commission be changed. Since the pay commission will continue till 2025, the wages that are recommended are very low and until then it will be difficult for railway employees to continue with such low wages," said Mahurkar.

Currently, the minimum wage that has been recommended is Rs 18,000 while the NFIR has demanded that it be increased to Rs 21,000. He also said that these days many educated people apply for trackmen post and therefore better opportunities should be given to them for promotion. Mahurkar said that the NFIR will soon decide on future course of action over the delay in submission of report.