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In its bid to crack down on shell companies, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) will soon ask the company secretary and chartered accountant of the companies concerned to update the information related to their directors at the time of filing of annual results, a senior MCA official said.

The information will include details such as passport, PAN number and contact details along with the physical address of directors.

The official said the ministry is expecting more than 30 lakh companies and directors to register.

Earlier this month, the task force on shell companies identified 2.25 lakh companies as shell firms. These companies are being struck off under section 248 of the Companies Act 2013 for not filing financial statements for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

The Registrar of Companies is in the middle of issuing notices to these entities, and if they fail to file returns over the next few months, they may get de-registered.

The government has been targeting companies that have not filed required returns under the Companies Act for more a year now. Previously, nearly 3 lakh companies and their directors had received notices from the ministry on failure to file correct returns since 2013-14 and names of 2.26 lakh companies were struck off.

These companies will be given an opportunity of being heard by way of notices regarding their default and the proposed action.

A task force headed by finance secretary Hasmukh Adhia and corporate affairs secretary Injeti Srinivas was set up in February 2017 to check the menace of shell companies through a coordinated, multi-agency approach.

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