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“For the second drive to be launched during 2018-19), 2,25,910 companies have been further identified for being struck off under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013...for non-filing of financial statements for 2015-16 and 2016-17,” a finance ministry statement said. Also, 7,191 Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) have been identified for action under section 75 of the LLP Act, 2008 due to non-filing of financial statements for the stated years, it said. These companies and LLPs will be given an opportunity of being heard by way of notices regarding their default and the proposed action. “Appropriate action will be taken after considering their response,” the statement said.

A task force headed by Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia and MCA Secretary Injeti Srinivas was set up in February 2017 to check the menace of shell companies through a coordinated, multi-agency approach. The task force has compiled a database of shell companies and classified them into 3 categories– Confirmed list, Derived list and Suspect list. The Confirmed List has a total of 16,537 confirmed shell companies on the basis of the information received from the various law enforcement agencies of the companies found to be involved in illegal activities.

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