

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2315
ANSWERED ON Monday, December 15, 2025
Agrahayana 24, 1947 (Saka)**

Shell Companies in West Bengal

2315. Shri Jagannath Sarkar:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of shell companies identified, struck off, prosecuted or placed under enhanced surveillance in West Bengal during the last three years, along with details of their registered addresses, directors and nature of violations;**
- (b) whether the Government has detected clusters of shell entities operating from identical or high-risk premises in Kolkata, Howrah, Siliguri and Asansol, including those used for hawala, benami transactions, GST fraud or bogus share-capital inflations, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether a real-time data-verification system is being strengthened to detect fake directors, forged KYC submissions and mass DIN misuse originating from the said State, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the extent of coordination with ED, SFIO, Income Tax and GST authorities in cases where shell companies registered in West Bengal have been linked to money laundering, political funding irregularities or organised financial fraud?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs; Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

(Shri Harsh Malhotra)

(a) and (b): The term "Shell Companies" has not been defined in the Companies Act, 2013. However, from time to time, this Ministry carries out Strike-Off drive under Section 248 (1) of the Companies Act, 2013 for striking off such companies which are not carrying on any business or operations for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has not made any application within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under

Section 455 of the Act or the subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under sub-section (1) of section 10A of the Act.

Accordingly, the number of Companies Struck-off under 248(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 during the last 3 years and the current year in the state of West Bengal is as under: -

Financial Year	Number of Companies Struck-off under Section 248(1)
2022-23	2769
2023-24	0
2024-25	0
2025-26 (till November)	0
Total	2769

(c): The necessary validations and real time data verification system is in place to detect fake or duplicate Director Identification Numbers (DIN).

(d): Details of Companies observed to be indulging in suspicious/potentially fraudulent transactions are shared by Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) reports, CEIB (Central Economic Intelligence Bureau) references, SLCC (State Level Co-ordination Committee) with the Ministry which serves as important inputs in taking up Inquiry/Inspection/Investigation under Sections 206(4), 206(5) and 210 of the Companies Act, 2013 respectively.

Further, in the matter of serious fraud, investigation is assigned to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under Section 212 of the Companies Act, 2013.

The findings of the Inquiry/Inspection/Investigation reports are also shared with enforcement agencies like Enforcement Directorate (ED), Income Tax (IT) Department, and GST Authorities as the case may be, to enable further course of action against such companies and individuals associated with such companies.
