

## **Increased Regulatory Action on Nidhi Companies**

## **Source: LM**

In 2024, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Registrars of Companies (RoCs) significantly intensified action against Nidhi companies and firms defaulting on beneficial ownership disclosures.

- This was done to ensure financial transparency, curbs illicit activities in the non-banking sector, and strengthens corporate governance.
- RoCs issued 131 orders against Nidhis, a 72% rise from 2023, with penalties ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 30 lakh.
- Beneficial Ownership refers to the individuals who ultimately own or control a company, even if the shares are held in another person's name.
  - Under the <u>Companies Act</u>, <u>2013</u>, companies must <u>disclose</u> the <u>identity</u> of individuals who have <u>significant</u> control or own <u>25%</u> or more of the shares.
- Nidhi Companies are non-banking financial entities (NBFC) that operate under Section
  406 of the Companies Act, 2013.
  - These companies are formed to encourage savings and provide loans exclusively to their members.
  - Nidhis are not required to obtain an RBI license but must adhere to strict disclosure and operational norms.
  - They are registered as public limited companies and include "Nidhi Limited" in their name.
  - They must maintain a minimum of 200 members within a year and Rs 20 lakh in net owned funds.

Read More: Nidhi Companies

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