

## Women still missing from over 60% of company boards

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More than 60 per cent of companies listed on the NSE have not met the requirement of having at least one woman director on their boards and have less than four months left to comply with the new rules, latest data shows.

As many as 922 companies (almost two-thirds) of the total 1,492 NSE-listed firms have not yet appointed a woman director on its board, data available till June 8 from [www.indian-boards.com](http://www.indian-boards.com) (a joint venture by Prime Database and NSE) showed.

Meanwhile, as many as 78

women have taken up 84 board positions since February 13, 2014 when capital market regulator SEBI announced the requirement for women directors.

Since February, firms like Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Steel Authority of India, Gillette India, Infosys, Power Grid Corp, Bajaj Finance, Seva Sterilite, NIIT, Ambuja Cements, Fortis Healthcare and Jalprakash Power have appointed at least one woman on their boards.

Nita Ambani, wife of Mukesh Ambani, will be appointed as the director on board of Reliance Industries from June 18, the list showed.

Across all listed companies on the NSE, there are just 533 women presently occupying 654 directorship positions.

Of these, while 357 women are holding 391 non-independent directorship positions, only 197 women are collectively occupying 263 independent directorship positions (21 women hold both independent as well as non-independent positions).

Thus, if the requirement was for boards to have independent women directors, as many as 1,277 companies (or 83 per cent of companies) would need to meet the norm, Pranav Haldea, Managing Director, Prime Database, said.