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Cos sans woman director face Sebi action

New Delhi: Under regulatory pressure, over 100 listed companies on Wednesday announced appointment of women directors, even as many others including some state-run giants were seen lagging behind in having at least one female member on their boards.

According to the Sebi directive and the Companies Act, 2013, all listed firms were required to have at least

one woman director on their boards by March 31, 2015. The companies have been warned of "serious consequences", including hefty penalties for non-compliance.

Sources said Sebi has sought a compliance status report from the stock exchanges (SEs) and would take a call accordingly. Interestingly, most of the companies on Wednesday said that the appointments were effective

Tuesday, or even prior dates.

Those lagging behind in appointing women directors included Jet Airways and Amrapali Industries, as also a number of state-run firms such as ONGC, PNB and BPCL, NHPC, SJVNL and RCF, as per the latest update available with the exchanges.

At least 50 companies announced the appointments late in the evening. AGENCIES