

Estimate change	
TP change	
Rating change	

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Bloomberg	KSCL IN
Equity Shares (m)	63
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	36.6 / 0.5
52-Week Range (INR)	816 / 463
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-23/11/-46
12M Avg Val (INR M)	237

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E Mar	2021	2022E	2023E
Sales	10.4	9.9	11.7
EBITDA	3.0	2.2	3.3
PAT	3.1	2.2	3.3
EBITDA (%)	28.8	21.9	28.2
EPS (INR)	51.6	37.0	54.7
EPS Gr. (%)	19.7	(28.3)	47.9
BV/Sh. (INR)	206	236	282

Ratios

Net D/E	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.6)
RoE (%)	28.3	16.7	21.1
RoCE (%)	30.0	17.7	23.8
Payout (%)	8.8	18.4	16.6

Valuations

P/E (x)	11.8	16.4	11.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	12.8	17.7	11.5
Div Yield (%)	0.7	1.0	1.3
FCF Yield (%)	6.0	5.2	7.3

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Jun-21	Mar-21	Jun-20
Promoter	55.5	55.5	55.5
DII	11.0	8.5	10.8
FII	16.4	19.8	20.2
Others	17.1	16.2	13.5

CMP: INR607

TP: INR710 (+17%)

Buy

Lower cotton seed volumes drag down overall performance

Earnings below estimates

- Kaveri Seeds (KSCL)'s 1QFY22 revenue fell 12% on account of de-growth in the Cotton and Maize, offset by growth in the Hybrid Rice and Vegetables segments. Cotton seed sales volumes were impacted by lower cotton acreage and the use of herbicide-tolerant Bt (HTBt) seeds, which further impacted branded seed sales. Also, the pandemic affected the supply chain, resulting in the lower absorption of cotton hybrids by dealers and distributors and the consequent unavailability for the farmer.
- Operating performance was further impacted by write-offs over government dues and the absence of operating leverage.
- Factoring in the 1QFY22 performance, we lower our earnings estimate for FY22 by 34% as 1Q contributes ~70% to annual revenue. We lower our earnings estimate for FY23 by 11%, primarily due to a decrease in cotton seed sales volumes (7m packets v/s 7.5m earlier) as well as margin estimates for the segment.
- We value the stock at 13x FY23E EPS to arrive at TP of INR710. Maintain Buy.

Absence of operating leverage drags down overall earnings

- 1QFY22 revenue (consolidated) was down 12% YoY to INR6,298m (v/s est. INR7,945m), weighed by lower cotton revenue and no maize sales to governments. EBITDA fell 30% YoY to INR1,996m (v/s est. INR3,205m). The EBITDA margin contracted 820bp YoY to 31.7%, primarily due to the absence of operating leverage and higher-than-average returns of seeds (35% in 1QFY22 v/s average of 20%). This led to the provisioning of INR220m and a drop in market share.
- Adj. PAT fell 31% YoY to INR2,037m (v/s est. INR3,186m). PAT de-growth was due to lower revenue and provisions for bad debts, against realized revenue for government business amounting to INR149m in FY20.
- Cotton seed volumes de-grew 29% to 4.97m packets, thereby leading to revenue de-growth of 28% to INR3,079m. Despite market share gains in Gujarat and Haryana, KSCL reported loss of sales in AP, Karnataka, and Telangana – coupled with a drop in volume contribution from new products to 21.3% (v/s 36.2% in 1QFY21).
- Maize seed volumes fell 18% to 4,348mt and corresponding revenue de-grew 8% YoY to INR842m. The weak performance was attributable to no government sales in 1QFY22 (v/s INR175m worth of sales in 1QFY21).
- Hybrid rice volumes increased 33% to 6,569m packets, leading to 43% revenue growth to INR1,635m. Selection rice volumes increased 5% to 11,709mt and revenue 15% to INR860m.
- Vegetable seed revenue grew 22% YoY to INR185m, driven by 2.2x volume growth to 38m packets.

Highlights from management commentary

- Industry cotton seed sales were impacted as 15% of the seeds sold during the quarter were illegal HTBt seeds. The sale of illegal cotton seeds and low branded seed sales have nearly doubled v/s last year, impacting the company's performance. Industry branded cotton seed sales declined 30% YoY during the quarter.
- Every year, ~20% of seeds produced by KSCL are returned to the company. However, as per KSCL's internal estimates, 35–36% of seeds are expected to be returned (the majority in the Non-Cotton Crops segment) in FY22. As a result, the company has already created provisions worth INR220m.

Valuation and view

- Despite market share gains in cotton seed in Gujarat and Haryana, KSCL lost sales in AP, Telangana, and Karnataka due to (a) lower acreage, (b) loss of volume market share due to lockdown related restrictions, and (c) higher HTBt seed sales. This resulted in overall revenue decline of 12% in 1QFY22; thereby, the company lost the season for FY22.
- However, KSCL is well on track to diversify from cotton seed sales by increasing the share of rice and vegetables – which are not only growing at a faster pace but also yielding higher margins (v/s the Cotton segment).
- Factoring in the 1QFY22 performance, we lower our earnings estimate for FY22 by 34% as 1Q contributes ~70% to annual revenue. We lower our earnings estimate for FY23 by 11%, primarily due to a decrease in cotton seed sales volumes (7m packets v/s 7.5m earlier) as well as margin estimates for the segment.
- We value the company at 13x FY23E EPS (in line with five-year average P/E) to arrive at TP of INR710. Maintain Buy.

Quarterly - Consolidated

Y/E March	(INR m)											
	FY21				FY22				FY21	FY22E	FY22	Var.
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2QE	3QE	4QE	1Q		1Q	%
Net Sales	7,195	1,340	1,185	643	6,298	1,524	1,361	688	10,363	9,871	7,945	-21
YoY Change (%)	14.6	13.9	-2.8	1.8	-12.5	13.7	14.8	7.1	11.4	-4.7	10.4	
Total Expenditure	4,325	1,174	1,083	801	4,302	1,321	1,237	855	7,383	7,714	4,740	
EBITDA	2,869	167	102	-158	1,996	204	123	-166	2,980	2,157	3,205	-38
Margins (%)	39.9	12.4	8.6	-24.6	31.7	13.4	9.1	-24.1	28.8	21.9	40.3	
Depreciation	55	56	56	56	48	65	70	70	222	253	60	
Interest	1	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	5	6	2	
Other Income	235	105	75	42	151	115	83	47	457	395	259	
PBT before EO expense	3,049	214	121	-174	2,099	252	134	-192	3,210	2,293	3,401	
Extra-Ord. expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PBT	3,049	214	121	-174	2,099	252	134	-192	3,210	2,293	3,401	
Tax	84	-20	30	4	52	15	8	-12	98	63	204	
Rate (%)	2.8	-9.4	24.4	-2.4	2.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	3.1	2.8	6	
Minority Interest & Profit/Loss of Asso. Cos.	-11	1	0	4	-10	1	0	4	-7	-6	-12	
Reported PAT	2,953	235	91	-174	2,037	237	126	-176	3,105	2,225	3,186	-36
Adj. PAT	2,953	235	91	-174	2,037	237	126	-176	3,105	2,225	3,186	-36
YoY Change (%)	28.6	72.1	10.4	-329.3	-31.0	1.1	38.2	1.3	19.9	-28.4	8	
Margins (%)	41.0	17.5	7.7	-27.0	32.4	15.6	9.3	-25.6	30.0	22.5	40.1	

Key Performance Indicators

Y/E March	FY21				FY22				FY21	FY22E
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2QE	3QE	4QE		
Segment Revenue Growth (%)										
Cotton seed	4.8	(69.3)	(111.8)	27.6	(27.5)	7.1	7.1	4.0	(2.2)	(26.3)
Hybrid Rice	53.2	(65.7)	443.5	(74.5)	43.3	16.6	16.6	16.6	55.9	39.6
Maize Seeds	8.7	112.7	(26.4)	97.9	(7.8)	13.4	13.4	(11.2)	18.4	1.8
Cotton Seed Vol (mn packets)	7.0	0.1	(0.1)	0.1	5.0	0.1	(0.1)	0.1	7.1	5.1
Cost Break-up										
RM Cost (% of sales)	52.4	57.5	48.1	45.8	55.9	57.5	48.1	45.8	52.2	54.4
Staff Cost (% of sales)	2.3	15.7	20.7	35.4	3.2	35.4	35.4	35.4	8.2	9.6
Other Cost (% of sales)	5.4	14.4	22.6	43.4	9.2	14.0	23.0	43.0	10.9	14.2
Gross Margins (%)	47.6	42.5	51.9	54.2	44.1	42.5	51.9	54.2	47.8	45.6
EBITDA Margins (%)	39.9	12.4	8.6	-24.6	31.7	13.4	9.1	-24.1	28.8	21.9
EBIT Margins (%)	42.4	16.1	10.3	-26.8	33.3	16.6	10.0	-27.6	34.6	22.2

Key exhibits

Exhibit 1: Revenue trend

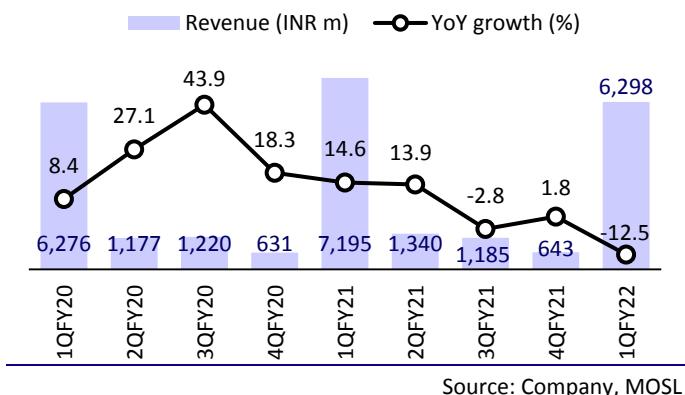


Exhibit 2: EBITDA margin trend

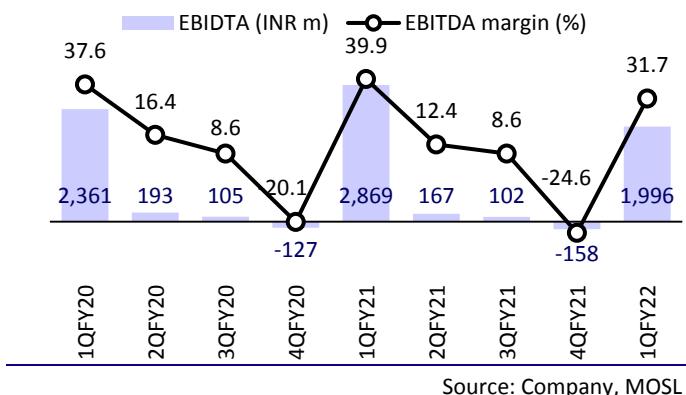


Exhibit 3: Adj. PAT trend

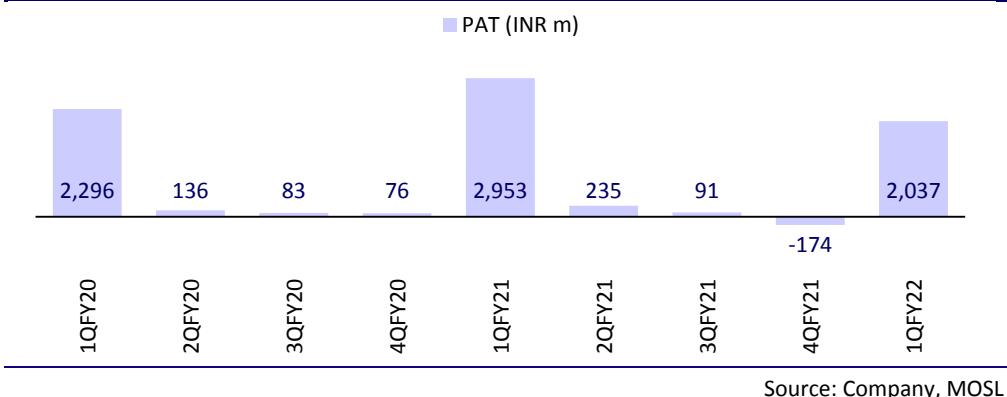


Exhibit 4: Cotton revenue and volume trend

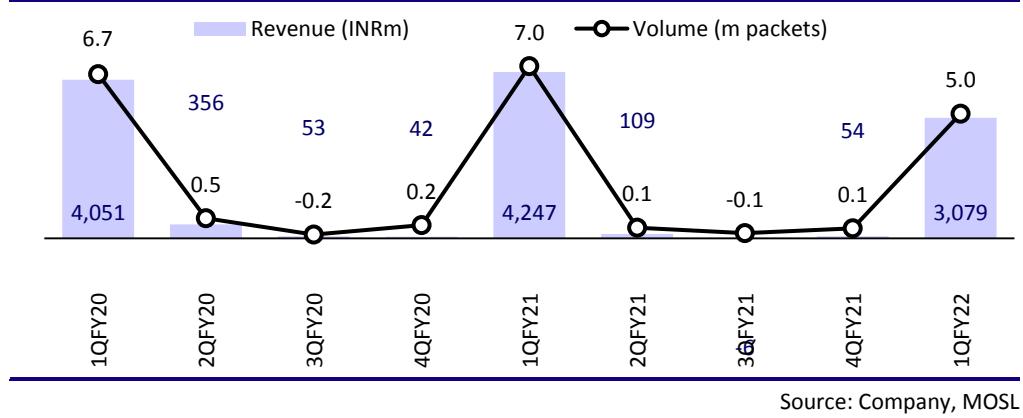
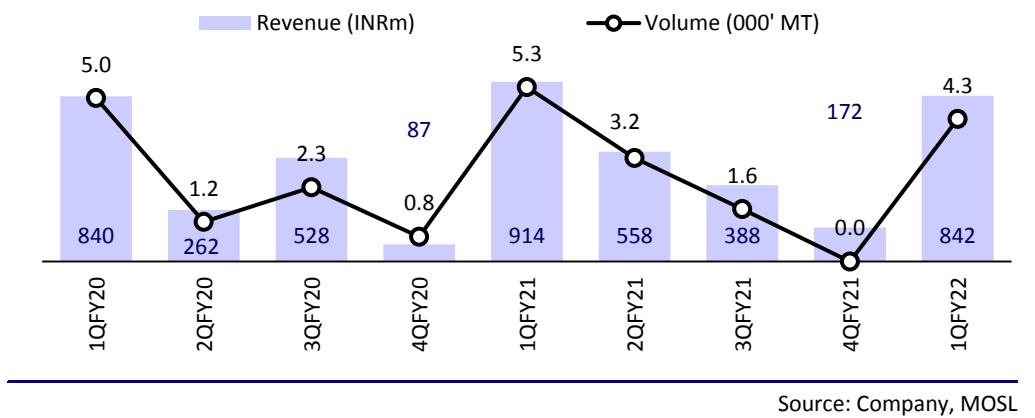
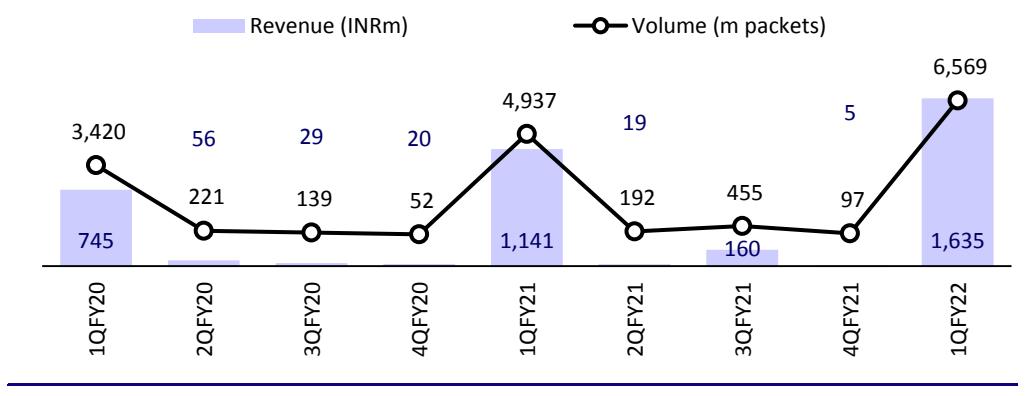


Exhibit 5: Maize revenue and volume trend



Source: Company, MOSL

Exhibit 6: Hybrid rice revenue and volume trend



Source: Company, MOSL



Conference call highlights

Cotton

- Cotton acreage was lower YoY by 8.7%. The area under cultivation has decreased in all major cotton-growing states. The highest decline has been seen in AP, followed by Punjab, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, MP, Haryana, and Telangana. The decline is largely attributable to lower yields and the pink bollworm infestation over the past two years, which has made farmers turn away despite the very high prices of cotton this year.
- 1QFY22 volumes and revenue are down by about 28% in cotton seed. The company gained cotton seed market share in Gujarat and Haryana, but lost sales in AP, Telangana, and Karnataka.
- The contribution of new products fell from 36% to 21% of volumes. New products include KCH 111, Viplav, and Money Maker.
- Farmers have shifted to other crops, which impacted cotton seed sales during the quarter.
- Cotton seeds sales for the industry were impacted as 15% of the seeds sold during the quarter were illegal HTBt seeds. The sale of illegal cotton seeds and low branded seed sales has nearly doubled v/s last year, impacting the company's performance. Industry branded cotton seed sales declined 30% YoY during the quarter.
- The company has not lost market share in the Branded Cotton Seeds segment.

Maize

- Overall maize acreage was almost stable, with a slight decrease of 0.2%. The area under cultivation increased significantly in major maize-growing states such as Telangana, Karnataka, Assam, and Gujarat. It declined in key states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, AP, Maharashtra, HP, and Rajasthan. Commodity prices have improved towards the closing of the season. The decline in area in many states was largely due to very poor rainfall and poor commodity prices last year as well as due to COVID during the peak sowing season.
- Maize volumes decreased 18% and revenue 8% during the quarter; the decrease was primarily attributable to no government sales in the quarter v/s sales worth INR175m in the corresponding quarter last year. Ex-government sales, revenue increased 14% YoY during the quarter.
- The contribution of new products has gone up significantly from 7% to 18%.

Paddy

- The rice area under cultivation has decreased by about 4% YoY. The major impact on acreage was largely from a delayed monsoon arrival and a long dry spell after the first showers. COVID also impacted sowing in many states due to the high impact of the second wave during the peak sowing season. Bajra is down by about 8.8%, largely due to very poor rainfall. Sunflower is up by about 34%, while Jowar is down by about 15%.
- Paddy sales grew significantly despite overall acreage declining. Hybrid rice grew 43%, while selection rice improved 15%.
- Hybrid Rice: Revenue grew 43% in 1QFY22. The contribution of new hybrids went up from 64% to 75%.
- Selection Rice: Revenue grew 15% in 1QFY22. A consistent performance was seen across geographies. New products Chintu, 828, Sampurna, and KV99 scaled up very well during the quarter. The contribution of new hybrids went up from 17% to 18%.
- In the Hybrid Rice segment, the company expects growth of 20–25%.

Vegetables:

- Key crops for the company include tomato, okra, and chilly.
- Vegetable sales revenue increased 22% during the quarter.
- Major growth was driven by hot peppers, gourds, and okra.
- The company introduced new hybrids such as Srimukhi (KHPH 1223), which has delivered good growth on the back of good commercial price and export demand. Coriander hybrid Parimal helped deliver good volume growth.
- The contribution of new hybrids in the Vegetables segment went up from 74% to 96%.

Financial

- The 1QFY22 provision of INR149m was towards bad debt towards government sales in FY20. The company does not expect any write-offs from the government in FY22.
- The Non-Cotton business was up 16% YoY in 1QFY22, driven by volume growth in Rice; new products in Maize, Rice, and Bajra; and a price increase in key lead hybrids across crops.

- Every year, the company typically provides for sales return of 20% (of sales); however, in 1QFY22, it provided for 35–36% of sales as sales return. The majority of the write-off was from non-cotton crops typically. The company had written off INR70–80m in FY21 v/s INR220m in 1QFY22.
- Gross margins have been impacted by write-offs and the EBITDA margin has been impacted by the absence of operating leverage.
- In the Non-Cotton segment, the operating margin is higher v/s the Cotton Seeds segment.
- Other expenses have increased v/s last year on the back of bad debt provisions and an increase in traveling expenses.
- Land lease: The company has leased 100k acres of land and aims to carry out the production of all seeds, with a moderately higher focus on hybrid seeds.
- Cash (including investments) stood at INR5.6b as of Jun'21.

Valuation

- Despite market share gains in cotton seed in Gujarat and Haryana, KSCL lost sales in AP, Telangana, and Karnataka due to (a) lower acreage, (b) loss of volume market share due to lockdown related restrictions, and (c) higher HTB seed sales. This resulted in overall revenue decline of 12% in 1QFY22; thereby, the company lost the season for FY22.
- However, KSCL is well on track to diversify from cotton seed sales by increasing the share of rice and vegetables – which are not only growing at a faster pace but also yielding higher margins (v/s the Cotton segment).
- Factoring in the 1QFY22 performance, we lower our earnings estimate for FY22 by 34% as 1Q contributes ~70% to annual revenue. We lower our earnings estimate for FY23 by 11%, primarily due to a decrease in cotton seed sales volumes (7m packets v/s 7.5m earlier) as well as margin estimates for the segment.
- We value the company at 13x FY23E EPS (in line with five-year average P/E) to arrive at TP of INR710. Maintain Buy.

Exhibit 7: Change in estimates

Earnings Change (INR m)	Old		New		Change	
	FY22E	FY23E	FY22E	FY23E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue	11,519	12,389	9,871	11,741	-14%	-5%
EBITDA	3,366	3,590	2,157	3,314	-36%	-8%
Adj. PAT	3,380	3,689	2,230	3,298	-34%	-11%

Source: MOFSL

Financials and valuations

Consolidated Income Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Net Sales	7,449	7,050	8,192	8,094	9,303	10,363	9,871	11,741
Change (%)	-35.9	-5.4	16.2	-1.2	14.9	11.4	-4.7	18.9
EBITDA	1,875	1,395	2,218	2,116	2,532	2,980	2,157	3,314
Margin (%)	25.2	19.8	27.1	26.1	27.2	28.8	21.9	28.2
Depreciation	274	302	251	230	257	222	253	293
EBIT	1,601	1,093	1,967	1,887	2,275	2,758	1,904	3,021
Int. and Finance Charges	2	2	6	5	5	5	6	6
Other Income - Rec.	131	344	237	430	456	457	395	494
PBT bef. EO Exp.	1,729	1,435	2,198	2,311	2,727	3,210	2,293	3,508
EO Expense/(Income)	0	592	0	0	0	0	0	0
PBT after EO Exp.	1,729	843	2,198	2,311	2,727	3,210	2,293	3,508
Current Tax	58	75	87	117	118	67	63	211
Deferred Tax	-3	-5	-3	20	10	31	0	0
Tax Rate (%)	3.2	8.3	3.8	5.9	4.7	3.1	2.8	6.0
Reported PAT	1,675	773	2,114	2,174	2,599	3,112	2,230	3,298
PAT Adj for EO items	1,675	1,316	2,114	2,174	2,599	3,112	2,230	3,298
Change (%)	-44.4	-21.4	60.6	2.8	19.5	19.7	-28.3	47.9
Margin (%)	22.5	18.7	25.8	26.9	27.9	30.0	22.6	28.1

Consolidated Balance Sheet								(INR m)
Y/E March	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Equity Share Capital	138	138	132	126	121	121	121	121
Total Reserves	9,134	10,005	9,992	9,942	9,466	12,325	14,138	16,888
Net Worth	9,272	10,143	10,124	10,069	9,587	12,445	14,259	17,009
Minority Interest	-2	-7	-6	-6	2	10	10	10
Deferred Liabilities	0	0	168	202	182	157	157	157
Total Loans	16	46	29	68	58	11	11	11
Capital Employed	9,286	10,182	10,315	10,332	9,829	12,622	14,436	17,186
Gross Block	3,033	3,322	3,463	4,199	4,551	4,733	5,133	5,533
Less: Accum. Deprn.	1,018	1,320	1,571	1,800	2,057	2,279	2,532	2,825
Net Fixed Assets	2,015	2,002	1,892	2,399	2,494	2,454	2,601	2,708
Capital WIP	197	340	376	384	185	311	197	235
Total Investments	5,064	6,569	6,226	5,096	3,839	5,990	7,390	9,490
Curr. Assets, Loans&Adv.	6,327	6,358	6,153	7,626	9,255	10,850	10,403	11,958
Inventory	5,044	4,478	4,428	5,612	6,391	7,195	6,747	7,751
Account Receivables	804	854	859	846	1,180	1,057	1,082	1,287
Cash and Bank Balance	94	210	139	87	81	141	205	220
Loans and Advances	386	817	727	1,081	1,603	2,457	2,369	2,700
Curr. Liability & Prov.	4,320	5,095	4,340	5,180	5,957	6,997	6,171	7,221
Account Payables	4,237	3,026	2,202	2,411	2,669	3,584	2,940	3,378
Provisions	83	9	116	72	68	117	72	86
Other current liabilities	0	2,060	2,022	2,696	3,221	3,296	3,159	3,757
Net Current Assets	2,007	1,263	1,814	2,446	3,297	3,852	4,232	4,738
Appl. of Funds	9,286	10,182	10,315	10,332	9,829	12,622	14,436	17,186

Financials and valuations

Ratios

Y/E March	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Basic (INR)								
EPS	27.8	21.8	35.0	36.0	43.1	51.6	37.0	54.7
Cash EPS	32.3	26.8	39.2	39.8	47.3	55.3	41.2	59.5
BV/Share	153.7	168.1	167.8	166.9	158.9	206.3	236.4	281.9
DPS	5.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	8.0
Payout (%)	24.7	32.2	11.7	11.3	9.5	8.8	18.4	16.6
Valuation (x)								
P/E				16.8	14.1	11.8	16.4	11.1
Cash P/E				15.2	12.8	11.0	14.7	10.2
P/BV				3.6	3.8	2.9	2.6	2.2
EV/Sales				4.7	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.2
EV/EBITDA				18.1	15.1	12.8	17.7	11.5
Dividend Yield (%)				0.5	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.3
FCF per share				8.5	29.3	36.6	31.3	44.2
Return Ratios (%)								
EBITDA Margins (%)	25.2	19.8	27.1	26.1	27.2	28.8	21.9	28.2
Net Profit Margins (%)	22.5	18.7	25.8	26.9	27.9	30.0	22.6	28.1
RoE	19.9	13.6	20.9	21.5	26.4	28.3	16.7	21.1
RoCE	21.2	16.0	22.5	24.2	28.9	30.0	17.7	23.8
RoIC	42.0	33.8	61.5	47.9	45.4	47.7	30.5	46.1
Working Capital Ratios								
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Asset Turnover (x)	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7
Inventory (Days)	247	232	197	253	251	253	249	241
Debtor (Days)	39	44	38	38	46	37	40	40
Creditor (Days)	208	157	98	109	105	126	109	105
Working Capital Turnover (Days)	94	55	75	106	126	131	149	140
Leverage Ratio (x)								
Current Ratio	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
Interest Cover Ratio	670	453	326	345	476	546	302	465
Debt/Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

	(INR m)							
Y/E March	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Net P / L Bef. Tax and Eo Items	1,729	1,435	2,198	2,311	2,727	3,210	2,293	3,508
Depreciation	274	302	251	230	257	222	253	293
Interest & Finance Charges	2	2	6	5	5	5	6	6
Direct Taxes Paid	58	75	87	117	118	67	63	211
(Inc)/Dec in WC	407	860	-621	-1,150	-952	-852	-316	-491
CF from Operations	2,355	2,525	1,747	1,279	1,918	2,519	2,174	3,107
EO Expense	467	-245	0	0	0	0	0	0
CF from Operating incl EO	2,822	2,280	1,747	1,279	1,918	2,519	2,174	3,107
(inc)/dec in FA	-262	-432	-177	-744	-153	-308	-287	-437
Free Cash Flow	2,560	1,848	1,570	535	1,765	2,211	1,887	2,669
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	-2,114	-1,505	343	1,130	1,257	-2,151	-1,400	-2,100
Others	-4	-5	2	438	21	286	0	0
CF from Investments	-2,380	-1,943	168	824	1,125	-2,173	-1,687	-2,537
Issue of Shares	-5	0	-2,000	-2,000	-2,404	0	0	0
(Inc)/Dec in Debt	2	30	-18	39	-10	-47	0	0
Interest Paid	-2	-2	-6	-5	-5	-5	-6	-6
Dividend Paid	-414	-249	-247	-247	-247	-274	-411	-548
CF from Fin. Activity	-415	-221	-1,985	-2,156	-3,049	-285	-423	-554
Inc/Dec of Cash	28	116	-71	-52	-6	60	64	15
Add: Beginning Balance	66	94	210	139	87	81	141	205
Closing Balance	93	210	139	87	81	141	205	220

Explanation of Investment Rating	
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)
BUY	>=15%
SELL	< - 10%
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation

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