

Investor's delight: State Bank of India Ltd. (SBI) Feb. 02, 2019

SBI|CMP: Rs. 284|FV: Re. 1|Market Cap: Rs. 2,53,726 crores

We believe the bank is well placed now after its performance in last few quarters. We were happy with SBIs Q3FY19 result and the management has delivered what it had promised in previous quarters. We believe the bank is well on track to return to its past glories after witnessing strong execution led by its strong management.

In Q3FY19, robust off take was witnessed in lending. Corporate credit witnessed a growth of 20.67 percent on yoy basis whereas retail segment witnessed a growth of 17.57 percent. CD ratio stood at 68.67 percent in Q3FY19. The bank registered strong NII growth of 21.4 percent on yoy basis led by robust credit growth, lower slippages and lower funding cost. The Bank registered a Net Profit of Rs. 3,955 crores due to domestic credit growth of 15.65 percent on yoy basis, better NIMs due to higher Yields on Advances, while Cost of Funds is flat (NIMs for Q3FY19 stood at 2.97% as against 2.92% in Q2FY19), improvement in Slippage ratio by 459 bps on yoy basis, significant improvement in credit cost by 105 bps on yoy basis and write-back of MTM due to softening of bond yields. RoA has improved to 0.45 percent in Q3FY19 as against 0.11 percent in Q2FY19 on gog basis.

The most crucial aspect that we were looking is for slippages number in Q3FY19. It was heartening to see that Bank successfully contained corporate slippages and retail slippages too were lower. The slippage ratio improved from 4.85 percent in FY18 (Slippages in FY18: Rs. 94,781 crores) to 0.87 percent (Slippages in Q3FY19: Rs. 4,523 crores). Corporate slippages continue to decline.

In addition, there was sustained improvement in asset quality. Significant improvement was seen in Gross NPAs in absolute terms. Gross NPAs declined from Rs. 1,99,141 crores in Q3FY18 to Rs. 1,87,765 crores in Q3FY19. Net NPA ratio improved to 3.45 percent in Q3FY19 (Net NPAs: Rs. 80,944 crores) from 5.73 percent (Net NPAs: Rs. 1,10,855 crores) in FY18. The bank has discontinued the practice of having a watchlist as SMA 1 & SMA 2 which covers account above Rs. 5 crores across all verticals are a better representation of stress as compared to erstwhile watchlist. Total SMA1 and SMA2 stood at Rs. 17,059 crores in Q3FY19 (SMA 1 stands at Rs. 13,440 crores and SMA 2 stands at Rs. 3,619 crores). Slippages from old watch list not significant any longer.

The stress from Power sector has been mostly recognized by the bank. ~ Rs. 5,000 crores of NPAs admitted/ referred to NCLT; resolution process underway for other NPAs. The much talked about exposure to IL&FS has been taken care of. As per the bank, the DHFL account is fully secured and is a good rated standard asset. With regards to provisioning for stressed assets, SBI's PCR improved to 74.63 percent in Q3FY19 as against 71% in Q2FY19 on qoq basis and 65.92 percent in Q3FY18. Provision Coverage Ratio (Excluding AUCA) improved by 830 bps YoY from 48.59% as on December 17 to 56.89% as on December 18 and by 294 bps sequentially. The bank has provided for both NCLT 1 and NCLT 2 list. PCR for NCLT list 1 is 66 percent (o/s – Rs. 25,681 crores) whereas PCR for NCLT list 2 is 86% (o/s – Rs. 18,641 crores), average PCR on NCLT 1 and 2 is 75%.

Four accounts resolved from NCLT1 & 2 List, with recovery>67%. One account from NCLT2 list sold to ARC with recovery of \sim 69% on 100% cash sale basis. The resolution of NCLT accounts will lead to lower GNPAs in coming quarters which would lead in significant writebacks. It is comforting to see that 20 accounts have 100% PCR. The final outcome of NCL/NCLAT in one large account itself will generate a bumper profit for the banks.

After the recent liquidity crisis in NBFCs space, the bank has targeted NBFCs backed by Govt. and PSU and high quality Private Sector NBFCs. Portfolio purchases from NBFCs were at ~Rs. 13,000 crores at the end of Dec 2018; ~ Rs. 7,000 crores in pipeline.

CAR stood at 12.77 percent. CRWAs on Advances to Total Advances" Ratio improved to 59.73 percent as on Dec. 18 from 63.09 percent as on Dec. 17. "TRWAs to Total Assets" Ratio improved to 54.41 percent as on



Dec.18 from 58.71 percent as on Dec.17. Bank raised Additional Tier I Bonds of Rs. 6,066 crores and Tier II Bonds of Rs. 4,116 crores during Q3FY19.

We believe that SBI is well on track to achieve its earlier guidance of loan CAGR of 12 percent, NIM target of 3 percent, slippages & credit cost of less than 2 percent, ROA of 0.9-1 percent, cost/income of 46 percent by end of FY20. The management of the bank is confident that it is progressing well to meet Slippage ratio and credit cost guidance for FY19E and FY20E.

To unlock value from its subsidiaries, SBI General Insurance and SBI Funds and Cards management are expected to be listed next year.

We are bullish on the prospects of SBI as we feel that the worst is discounted in current market price and there is room for upside. We believe that the bank has accounted for its NPAs and stressed assets and the worst case scenario is now behind us. Prospects of recovery are likely to increase and we expect good write-backs as well. Structurally, the bank is strongly placed against peers like Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda and Bank of India owing to higher CASA ratio, lower cost of funds ability to underwrite large corporate loans, strong branch network and largest customer base to enable cross selling, technological advancement, largest market share in digital payments (Digital leadership; YONO, an entirely new digital eco-system and distribution channel is emerging, Share of Alternate Channel transactions over 87%, the Leadership position of the Bank in Debit Card spends continues with a market share of 30.16 percent as on December 18.), credit card business etc.

At current market price of Rs. 284, the bank trades at P/BV of 1.30x (9MFY19 Book Value stands at Rs. 218) and at adjusted Book Value of Rs. 127 (after deducting Net NPAs), the stock trades at P/BV of 2.24x. We are bullish on the stock and advice accumulation as CMP is quite reasonable.



Recommendation parameters for fundamental reports:

Buy - Absolute return of 20% and above

Accumulate – Absolute return between 15% and above

Book profits: On achieving the price target given in the research report for a particular Company or on a occurrence of a specific event leading to change in fundamentals of the Company recommended

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