

TRIDENT/CS/2019
August 3, 2019

The Manager Listing Department National Stock Exchange of India Limited Exchange Plaza, Plot No. C/1, G Block Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E) Mumbai - 400 051	The Manager Listing Department BSE Limited Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers Dalal Street Mumbai - 400 001
Scrip Code:- TRIDENT	Scrip Code:- 521064

Dear Sir/ Madam

Sub: Industry Outlook & Earnings Frequently asked questions

Pursuant to Regulation 30 and other applicable provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we wish to inform you that to remain committed and transparent towards our stakeholders and maintain high corporate governance, the Company is providing herewith the latest updates on the Financial Results for Quarter ended on June 30, 2019, industry outlook, way forward and response to the specific questions that may be helpful to answer the queries regarding the business and financials of the Company.

The document is attached herewith for your information and records please. A copy of the same is also available on the official website of the company at:

https://www.tridentindia.com/webroot/reports/5d4582973c0f6_1564836503_Trident%20Ltd%20-%20Q1%20FY20%20FAQs%20and%20Industry%20Outlook.pdf

This is for your information and records please.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully
For Trident Limited





(Ramandeep Kaur)
Company Secretary
ICSI Membership No.: F9160

Encl: As above



Trident Limited Q1 FY 2019-20
“Industry Outlook & Earnings Frequently Asked Questions”

August 3, 2019

Disclaimer: Certain statements that are made or discussed may be forward looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties like government actions, local political or economic developments, technological risks, and many other factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the relevant forward-looking statements. Trident Limited will not be in any way responsible for any action taken based on such statements and discussions and undertakes no obligation to publicly update these forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances.

Business Performance and Outlook:

We will be providing you with the latest updates on the financial results, industry outlook and then answer specific questions that may be helpful to answer the queries regarding the business and financials of the company and way forward. This information has been collated by taking inputs from the senior management, including the business leaders who have the ownership of their business performance thereby presenting you with financial as well as insightful and pragmatic data points.

We remain committed and transparent towards our stakeholders and always maintain high corporate governance.

Further, if you have any queries, please feel free to get in touch with the Investor Relations team.

After registering a strong performance in FY 2019, the Home Textile business looks to continue the momentum in FY20. The company has registered a positive growth in the current quarter with an increase of 15% in Revenue on a Y-o-Y basis.

Bath Linen business had 56% capacity utilization in Q1FY20 whereas the Bed Linen business achieved a capacity utilization of 46% in the first quarter.

Capacity Utilisation:

Business Segment	FY19 (Full Year)	Q4 FY19	Q1 FY20
Bath Linen	49%	49%	56%
Bed Linen	63%	74%	46%
Yarn	98%	99%	99%
Paper	89%	88%	89%

Production:

Business Segment	Unit	Q1 FY 20
Bath Linen	Metric Tons	12558
Bed Linen	Million Metres	5.005
Yarn	Metric Tons	28460
Paper	Metric Tons	38777

Trident has delivered strong performance in the quarter with both Home Textile and Paper business delivering a strong Y-o-Y growth in Q1 FY20.

We continue to remain optimistic to sustain this growth in Home Textile business

In terms of financials for the quarter ended 30 June 2019:

- **Net Revenue in Q1 FY20 grew by 15.2% Y-o-Y to INR 1313.1 crores** compared to INR 1140.0 crores in Q1 FY19
 - Y-o-Y Bath Linen sales volume grew by 24 % in Q1 FY20
 - Captive consumption of Yarn stood at 48.2% in Q1 FY20
- **EBIDTA Q1 FY20 stood at INR 303.9 crores which translates into 23.1% margin**
- **Profit after tax for the quarter stood at INR 123.2 crores translating to EPS of INR 2.42**
- The employee cost for the quarter stood at INR 148.6 Crores which is at a similar level on Y-o-Y basis. The run rate will be around INR 145 – INR 150 crores on a quarterly basis going forward.
- **Finance cost for Q1 FY20 has stands at INR 35.8 crore** which is higher by 10.8% compared to Q4 FY19.
- **Net Debt came down by INR 420 Crores to INR 1924 Crores** as on 30th June 2019; Net Debt to Equity ratio stood at 0.6x and Net Debt to EBITDA at 1.6x.
 - **Net reduction in Long Term debt by INR 93 Crores to INR 1201 Crores** as on 30th June 2019.

Coming to the segment wise performance:

Textile Segment:

- **Q1 FY20 Revenue has grown by 15.5% to INR 1057.4 crores** compared to INR 915.8crores in Q1 FY19.
- EBIT for the segment has jumped to **INR 144.9 crores** Y-o-Y as compared to 38.5 Crores in Q1 FY19.

Paper & Chemicals Segment:

- **Q1 FY20 Revenue has grown by 15.1% to INR 248.0 crores** as compared to INR 215.5 crores in Q1 FY19.
- EBIT for the segment during the quarter jumped by **27.3%** and stands at **INR 98.5 crores** Y-o-Y as compared to INR 77.4 Crores in Q1 FY19.

Home Textile Outlook:

The Home Textile business registered growth in FY 2019 and has delivered a strong Y-o-Y growth in Q1FY20. Once again we would again like to highlight that India will continue to hold competitive advantage as our industry is characterized by high entry barriers in terms of scale, capital availability, skilled labor, customer relationships, sustainability as well as availability of raw material thereby maintaining high quality standards which is one of the key parameters for customer stickiness. Accelerated growth, higher spending power with customers in US and currency support will help us to deliver better results going forward. Also, as per SBI Trade Report, the ongoing trade war between US and China has been moderately beneficial to India as the cotton imports from US to China have declined whereas imports from India have gone up.

We believe that the currency will continue to witness volatility. The upward revision in Duty Drawback by 0.5% in Yarn Business and 0.6% in Bath/Bed Linen business in Dec 2018 and revision in ROSCTL from 2.2% to 8.2% for Bed as well as Bath Linen business from Mar 2019 has certainly provided boost to the Indian Textile Industry.

OTEXA Data:

Market share for US imports of cotton sheets					Market share for US imports of terry towels				
Country	2016	2017	2018	2019*	Country	2016	2017	2018	2019*
India	49%	50%	50%	50%	India	40%	39%	39%	38%
China	22%	20%	21%	21%	China	23%	24%	25%	26%
Pakistan	16%	16%	17%	20%	Pakistan	22%	21%	20%	21%
ROW	13%	14%	12%	9%	ROW	15%	16%	16%	15%

**(January 2019 – May 2019)*

As per OTEXA data India's share has remained stable in cotton sheets and terry towel in the current year as compared to last year. In absolute terms, India's exports of terry towel to US have increased by 1% from Y-o-Y.

India has emerged not only the largest producer of raw cotton but also a major cotton surplus & cotton exporting country in the recent years. This gives a distinct advantage to Indian Home Textile Manufacturers. Home Textiles companies which have invested in terms of scale, Technology & systems are bound to consolidate & grow, leveraging their capabilities with cost effect manufacturing & strong market presence. Trident will further consolidate its business by leveraging the existing customers and adding new customers to its portfolio.

Paper Industry Outlook:

- Actual production of Indian Paper Industry in FY18 stands roughly at over 16 million tonnes which are roughly 4% of global 400 million tons. Capacity utilization rate is around 86%.
- As per CARE report, the Indian paper industry has continued to witness steady growth in FY18 and the domestic demand grew from 9.3 million tonnes in FY08 to 17.1 million tonnes in FY18 at a CAGR of 6.3%
- CARE Ratings expects that the overall paper demand is expected to grow at a CAGR of 6.7% to touch 20.8 million tonnes in FY21. Writing and Printing segment demand is expected to grow at a CAGR of 4.5% and reach 5.8 million tons in FY 21.
- Factors leading to growth are
 - i) Rising income levels
 - ii) Growing per capita expenditure and low domestic per capita paper consumption
 - iii) Increasing FMCG and packaged food industries
 - iv) Rapid Urbanisation
- We expect the volume growth and realizations to sustain momentum going forward

Cotton Outlook:

- According to CARE Ratings Global Cotton outlook, India is set to be the leading cotton producer with 23% of global cotton production followed by China and US at 22% and 17% respectively. According to the USDA projection for 2019-20 for the world production of cotton is set to increase by 5% over 2018-19 figures to 125.8 million bales
- China and India are set to remain the largest users of cotton with 53% of total world consumption. As per the CARE Report, cotton exports from India are forecasted at 4.4 million bales in 2019-20.
- According to the latest estimate of the cotton crop, The Cotton Association of India (CAI) has estimated production for 2018-19 season (Oct'18- Sept'19) at 312 Lakh Bales of 170 Kgs each which is lower by 3 lakh bales than its previous estimate of 315 lakh bales.
- The CAI estimate for the Northern Zone is at the same level as in its previous month's estimate of 59 lakh bales. The Cotton crop estimate for the Central Zone has been increased by 30000 bales.
- The estimate for the Southern Zone has been decreased by 3.25 Lakh bales to 68.50 lakh bales compared to the estimate of 71.25 lakh bales made during the last month.

- The estimate for Gujarat state was increased by 3.5 lakh bales whereas the estimated for Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh were revised down by 2.88 lakh bales and 7 thousand bales respectively compared to the previous month estimate.
- The imports estimated by CAI stands at 31 lakh bales till the end of the cotton season (30th September 2019). This stands higher by 16 lakh bales compared to the previous year's estimated imports of 15 lakh bales.

Dividend:

With strong emphasis to reward the shareholders, the Board has recommended First Interim dividend of INR 0.90 per fully paid share of INR 10 each.

Frequently asked questions and their responses

What was the average realization (USD/INR) rate in Q1FY20?

- Our average negotiated rate for the current quarter has been at around INR 70.61 per USD.

What is the hedging strategy/policy of the company?

- For hedging export receivables, forward covers are taken for a maturity up to 6-12 months. The hedging strategy division wise is as under:
 - Terry Towel Division: Hedging is done on monthly rolling basis at 40%-60% of sales replenishment.
 - Yarn/ Paper division: Hedging is done on order to order basis. Whenever any order is confirmed, it is hedged by forward cover.

As a policy when do we start hedging for FY20?

- We are hedging systematically. We hedge foreign exchange based on the hedging policy approved by the BOD of 6-12 months tenor.

What is the current hedging rate for FY20?

- Average Forward Hedged Rate for FY20 is around INR 72.32 per USD.

What is the other income besides the FOREX gain or loss that you are showing in the P&L account?

- New accounting standard does not allow to net the interest expenditure with the interest income. But this is broadly the treasury income in terms of our investments into Liquid / FD based current investments.

How do you see cotton price movement in the international markets and what is the current gap between Indian prices and international prices? What's your outlook on Cotton Prices going forward?

- According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) projection for 2019-20 for the world production of cotton is set to increase by 5% over 2018-19 figures to 125.8 million bales. Due to higher production, the cotton prices have remained under pressure

globally. India's cotton imports are set to double in the current cotton season to around 31 lakh bales. Despite this the cotton price in India has come down by 5-6%. Due to the ongoing trade war between US and China, the cotton prices have come under pressure as China has not been buying cotton from US. Current price of cotton in international future market has reduced to ~64 cents/lbs which is down by 19% from the highs of 76 cents about three months ago. We expect cotton prices to remain subdued going forward due to increased import cotton unless any demand pick up from current levels due to geo-political trade issues

What kind of maintenance capex and quantum are we expecting for the in FY20?

- We will maintain our guidance for maintenance capex at approximately INR 100 crores for FY20 and the same will be utilized towards small maintenance CAPEXs in the form of de-bottlenecking/ upgradation of capacities.

Any Capex Plans for in next two years. If yes, in which business and what would be the size of the capacity?

- The company is undertaking an expansion project in yarn segment at Budni, Madhya Pradesh at a total cost of INR 1140.0 crores. The project cost is to be funded through mix of debt of INR 855.0 crores and equity of INR 285.0 crores. The proposed yarn project will provide backward integration support to the enhanced capacity utilization of Home Textile segment as well for outside sales. The plant is scheduled to become operational in 2021. Post expansion the installed capacity of yarn segment will increase by 48482 TPA. Based on outside sales, the plant will add approx. INR 1170 crore of revenue to the existing topline of the company.

The company is also undertaking a De-bottlenecking & Modernization of its existing paper units at Dhaura Plant, Punjab at total cost of INR 222.0 crores. The project cost is to be funded through debt of INR 148.0 crores and internal accruals of INR 74.0 crores. The proposed project shall help to strengthen the existing paper units of the company and shall further increase the market presence. Post expansion the installed capacity of paper segment will increase by 20000 TPA.

What is revenue from Bed and Bath Linen in Q1FY20?

- ➔ Bed and Bath Linen contributed more than 55% of the Total Revenue in Q1FY20 which stands at INR 730 crores.

What utilization level are we envisaging for Bed & Bath Linen by FY20?

- ➔ For Bed Linen we are targeting 75% (+-5%) utilization levels in FY20 and for Bath Linen we expect 60% (+-5%) utilization levels in FY20.

Can you provide guidance on EBITDA & Revenue growth for FY20 & FY21?

- ➔ On a full year basis, the company's EBITDA margins will be around 18% to 22% on a sustainable basis with double digit growth in revenue.

What are the key initiatives have been taken by marketing team to sustain the volume growth?

- ➔ The company is undertaking the following initiatives for the US market to sustain and increase the volume growth across Bath Linen and Bed Linen segment:
 - Targeting key retailers among top 10 US retailers and addition of two top US retailers in our customer profile during the quarter
 - Further in order to develop Trident as a Brand, we have started exploring direct sales through various e-com platforms
 - We have tied up with a warehousing company in US for drop shipment of merchandize to various e-retailers of US
 - Customer face time has been increased through dedicated US marketing team enabling quick turnaround of orders
 - Focusing on having more patents and trademarks through dedicated innovation/designing team

The company is undertaking the following initiatives for EU/UK market to sustain and increase the volume growth across Bath Linen and Bed Linen categories

- Targeting top key retailers country wise especially in EU market
- Identifying and targeting back wall programs (with volumes) for continuous/sustainable growth
- Focusing to increase customer face time through Europe based marketing

representatives enabling quick turnaround of enquiries/orders

What are the key initiatives we have taken to increase our market share in EU and Japan?

- We are focusing on major markets in Europe; mainland including Germany, France, Switzerland, Poland & Norway, Denmark & Sweden in Scandinavia
- Working and focusing to enter the supermarket segment in UK to drive potential customers
 - Leveraging relationships built on existing clients of Towel business to expand business to sheeting
 - Working closely with major European retailers, to increase production matrix with Trident thus supplying worldwide
 - Exploring and focusing on Loyalty & Promotional Programs in Mainland Europe.
 - Exploring possibility for partnering with hospitality chains to increase Trident's share in their towel and sheeting requirements
 - In Japan market since we have already completed the first big drop of recent orders, it have given us edge and helpful in promoting our name in that market. We are focusing more on new retailers and hospitality segment, already made required changes in the infrastructure to meet the quality requirement of this market

Do we pass on the impact of currency fluctuation to the customers?

- Prices for most of the programs are agreed for at least a year in advance irrespective of the currency fluctuation. However, the prices can be negotiated within this period if there is substantial change in the currency or input cost. Both the parties do understand the impact (short term or long term) and decides mutually. We address it by conducting market & consumer surveys which helps us in bringing unique & innovative products to our partners & customers that helps them to grow their business & keep us ahead of competition which keeps us to remain competitive. In case of Europe the prices usually agreed on yearly basis for replenishment programs and on half yearly/seasonal basis for promotional programs irrespective of the currency fluctuation. However, the prices can be negotiated during the next year/season considering actual currency fluctuation and freeze the same accordingly

Any updates on MEIS which is likely to go away?

- ➔ The government is supporting Textile sector and overall exports by various schemes which the government has introduced considering the need of the industry. With the MEIS expected to be withdrawn soon, the government has introduced enhanced benefits under ROSCTL scheme for the industry which will provide additional impetus to textile sector.

What is the reason for the increase in finance cost in the current quarter?

- ➔ The increase in finance cost is due to an increase in proportion of Non-TUFS loan in Q1 FY20 as compared to Q1 FY19.

What is the guidance on tax rate for FY20/21?

- ➔ The Company will pay taxes as per the regular rate of income tax, i.e. 33%.

What is the rationale behind the stock split decision taken by the company?

- ➔ The board has taken the decision of stock split in order to improve the liquidity of the Company's equity shares and to make equity shares more affordable for the small retail investors.

For more information, please visit www.tridentindia.com OR contact:

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