## **Result Update**

8<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2024

## **Shree Cement Limited**

Cement



#### **Soft Cement Prices & Higher Cost Hurt Profitabilty**

Est. Vs. Actual for Q1FY25: Revenue - INLINE; EBITDA Margin - MISS; PAT - MISS

Change in Estimates post Q1FY25 (Abs.)

FY25E/FY26E: Revenue: -5%/-1%; EBITDA: -20%/-11%; PAT: -45%/-33%

#### **Recommendation Rationale**

- Capacity expansion progressing well: During the quarter, the company reported volume growth of 8% at 9.64 mtpa and was better than other larger peers in the industry. The company recently commissioned its Guntur plant in Andhra Pradesh with 1.5 mtpa Clinker and 3 mtpa grinding capacity. The work on the capacity expansion program already announced by the company is running as per the schedule. We believe these are positive moves and will allow the company to catch up with its larger peers and strengthen its footprint. We estimate Shree Cement to post volume growth of 10% CAGR over FY23-FY26E.
- Lower realization & higher depreciation to impact profitability: During the quarter, blended realization dipped by 11% and 6% YoY/QoQ to Rs 5,015/tonne. Higher depreciation impacted profitability and was lower by 38% and 40% against our and consensus estimates. The current cement prices are soft and demand is subdued. It is expected to improve only in Q3FY25. During the quarter, the depreciation charge was higher by 56% against our estimate. Taking into consideration soft cement prices and higher depreciation charges for the year, we revise our estimates sharply downward for FY25/FY26. Pricing remains key monitorable.
- Robust Cement Demand: We expect cement demand to remain robust, with the industry
  projected to grow at a CAGR of 8%-9% over FY23-FY26. This growth will be driven by
  infrastructure and housing spending, and supported by strong real estate demand. Further
  consolidation in the industry is expected to benefit large players such as Shree Cement, offering
  advantages in pricing, supply chain efficiency, and incremental demand over the long term.

#### Sector Outlook: Positive

Company Outlook & Guidance: The company expects to grow in tandem with the industry growth. The current cement prices are soft and demand also stands subdued. The company expects meaningful cement demand to start surfacing towards the latter part of Q3FY25. The long-term opportunity for big players remains attractive as the industry consolidation will benefit them and incremental cement supply will be absorbed by incremental demand. The company is optimistic about cement demand growth due to the government's keen and continued focus on infrastructure and housing development.

Current Valuation: 18x FY26EV/EBITDA (Earlier Valuation: 18.5x FY26 EV/EBITDA)

Current TP: Rs 25,610/share (Earlier TP: Rs 29,350/share)

Recommendation: We change our rating from BUY to HOLD

Alternative BUY Ideas from our Sector Coverage: UltraTech Cement Ltd (TP-12,400/share), JK Cements Ltd (TP-4,920/share), Dalmia Bharat (TP-2,120/share), JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd (TP-950/share), Ambuja Cements Ltd( TP: Rs 750/share)

**Outlook:** Cement demand is expected to remain robust on account of higher government spending on housing and infrastructure. The company's new capacity expansion plan is on track while it is strongly positioned in its key markets of North and East India. However, in the short term, soft cement prices and subdued demand remain a challenge for the industry as a whole.

#### Valuation & Recommendation

The stock is currently trading at 22x/18x EV/EBITDA of FY25E/FY26E. We change our rating from **BUY** to **HOLD** on the stock with a TP of Rs 25,610/share, implying an upside of 2% from the CMP.

#### Key Financials (Standalone)

ricy i manorate (cumulatione)					
(Rs Cr)	Q1FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Axis Est.	Variance
Net Sales	4,835	-5	-3	4,888	-1%
EBITDA	916	-31	-2	957	-4%
EBITDA Margin	19.0%	(700bps)	30bps	19.6%	(60bps)
Net Profit	318	-52	-45	514	-38%
EPS (Rs)	88	-52	-45	143	-38%

Source: Company, Axis Securities

(CMP	as	of	7 <sup>th</sup>	Aug,	2024)
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CMP (Rs)	25,107
Upside /Downside (%)	2
High/Low (Rs)	30,738/23,432
Market cap (Cr)	90,486
Avg. daily vol. (6m)Shrs.	50090
No. of shares (Cr)	3.61

#### Shareholding (%)

	Dec-23	Mar-24	June-24
Promoter	62.6	62.6	62.6
FIIs	12.3	12.5	12.2
MFs / UTI	7.7	7.6	7.7
Banks / Fls	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others	17.4	17.4	17.5

#### **Financial & Valuations**

Y/E Mar (Rs Cr)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Net Sales	19,586	19,636	22,368
EBITDA	4,364	3,752	4,698
Net Profit	2,610	1,493	1,920
EPS (Rs)	723	414	533
PER (x)	35	61	47
P/BV (x)	4.4	4.2	3.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	19	22	18
ROE (%)	13	7	9

#### Change in Estimates (%)

Y/E Mar	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	-5%	-1%
EBITDA	-20%	-11%
PAT	-45%	-33%

#### ESG disclosure Score\*\*

Environmental Disclosure	54
Social Disclosure Score	47
Governance Disclosure Score	85
Total ESG Disclosure Score	62
Sector Average	50

Source: Bloomberg, Scale: 0.1-100

\*\*Note: This score measures the amount of ESG data a company reports publicly and does not measure the company's performance on any data point. All scores are based on 2022 disclosures

### Relative performance



Source: Ace Equity

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#### **Financial Performance**

SCL reported a mixed set of numbers while volume grew by 8% higher than other larger peers. Revenue/EBITDA/APAT declined by 3%/2%/45% YoY (below expectations), owing to lower realization, higher depreciation, and lower merchant power sales during the quarter. The company reported a profit of Rs 318 Cr against Rs 581 Cr in Q1FY24.

The company recorded an EBITDA margin of 19% (expectation of 19.6%) against 18.7% YoY, led by lower costs. The quarter's volume stood at 9.64 Mn tonnes per annum (mntpa), up 8% YoY. SCL's EBITDA/tonne stood at Rs 951, down 9% YoY. The company reported blended realization/tonne of Rs 5,015 against Rs 5,604, down 11%/6% on a YoY/QoQ basis. The company's cost/tonne declined by 11% YoY to Rs 4,065. During the quarter, depreciation cost increased by 108% owing to new plant commissioning.

## **Key Concall Highlights**

Capacity Expansion: The existing and new capacity details are as under:

- The integrated cement plant in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, with a clinker capacity of 1.5 MTPA and a
  cement capacity of 3.0 MTPA, commenced commercial operations in Apr'24 and is expected to support volume
  growth moving forward.
- Additionally, there is a clinker capacity of 3.65 Mn tonnes and a cement capacity of 6.0 Mn tonnes at Pali (Rajasthan) and Etah (Uttar Pradesh). Another clinker capacity of 3.65 Mn tonnes and cement capacity of 6.0 Mn tonnes at Kodla and Bangalore are progressing well.
- The company is also increasing the capacity of its Baloda Bazar unit by an additional 3.4 MTPA at a capital cost of Rs 550 Cr (implying \$19/tonne), with commissioning expected by Q2FY26. Furthermore, a new grinding capacity of 3 MTPA is being set up at Ras, Rajasthan, at a capital cost of Rs 600 Cr. With these expansions, the company's total grinding capacity will increase to 75 MTPA.
- The company aims to expand its total cement manufacturing capacity to 80 MTPA by 2028, positioning itself as a pan-India player.

**Volume:** The company indicated that current demand is subdued, with expectations for demand to increase in Q3FY25 and improve further in Q4FY25. The company aims to grow in tandem with the industry. During the quarter, the company reported an 8% volume growth. Premium products accounted for 7.6% of total trade cement sales in Q1FY25, up from 7% YoY, and the company anticipates further growth in premium cement sales due to enhanced branding and promotional activities. Capacity utilization during the quarter was 76%. The regional sales mix was 55% North, 35% East, and 10% South.

**Pricing:** On a sequential basis, blended realization was down 11% and 6% YoY/QoQ at Rs 5,015. The company declined to comment on cement prices and maintained that prices are dynamic and will move as per market trajectory. Cement realization was down 5% YoY. Owing to the change in geo mix during the quarter as the company sold more cement in the East where prices were soft, impacting Cement realization.

**Power/Fuel:** The current cost on a Kcal basis is Rs 1.76, and the same is expected to remain the same in the ensuing quarter. On a tonne basis, power/fuel cost reduced by 15%/4% YoY/QoQ to Rs 1458/tonne.

Share of green power consumption in total power consumption increased: The Company achieved a significant milestone of 1 GW (1,000 MW) of installed power capacity with the commissioning of a 19.5 MW solar power plant at its manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh in June 2024, taking its total power capacity to 1003 MW. The Company's 1 GW+ capacity includes a mix of solar, wind, thermal and waste heat recovery power plants, with a high priority on renewable energy to meet the electricity demand for cement production. It is further increasing our solar power capacity by ~ 135 MW across our manufacturing locations



in Rajasthan, Panipat, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. The Company's share of green electricity in total electricity consumption stood at 54% in Q1'FY25 which is one of the highest in the Indian cement industry. With investments lined up to expand renewable energy generation capacity, the proportion is set to further increase

**Freight:** Lead distance during the quarter was 459km against 438 km in Q1FY24. On a per-tonne basis, freight cost was lower by 3% at Rs 1,157/tonne. The company hopes to further reduce the lead distance moving ahead as it is working to establish railway connectivity for the majority of its plants in the coming years. The company aims to carry 25% of the total production through Rail in the next 2-3 years, which will drive savings in logistic costs. The current Rail/Road mix stood at 12:88.

**RMC Foray:** The company has plans to set up ~100 Bangur Concrete plants in the next 3 years, operating in ~50 cities and generating ~3,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

**Capex:** Total Capex till FY27 is expected to be Rs 12,500 cr, with Rs 4,500 Cr allocated for each of FY25 and FY26. The company plans to meet the Capex requirement through internal accruals.

## Key Risks to Our Estimates and TP

- Lower realization and demand in its key market and delay in capacity expansion.
- Higher input costs may impact margins.

### **Change in Estimates**

	Ne	New		Old		ange
	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	19636	22368	20,697	22,707	-5%	-1%
EBITDA	3752	4698	4,688	5,268	-20%	-11%
PAT	1493	1920	2,702	2,861	-45%	-33%



## **Result Review Q1FY25**

(D - 0.4)	Quarterly Performance					
(Rs Cr)	Q1FY25	Q4FY24	Q1FY24	% ChgQoQ	% Chg YoY	
Net sales	4835	5101	4,999	-5%	-3%	
Expenditure	3918	3774	4,066	4%	-4%	
EBITDA	916	1327	933	-31%	-2%	
Other income	135	138	162	-2%	-17%	
Interest	57	65	75	-12%	-24%	
Depreciation	643	628	308	2%	108%	
PBT	351	772	711	-55%	-51%	
Tax	33	110	129	-70%	-74%	
PAT	318	662	581	-52%	-45%	
EBITDA margin (%)	19.0%	26.0%	18.7%	(700bps)	30bps	
EPS (Rs)	88	184	161	-52%	-45%	

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research

## Volume/Realization/Cost Analyses

(Po Cr)	Quarterly Performance					
(Rs Cr)	Q1FY25	Q4FY24	Q1FY24	% ChgQoQ	% Chg YoY	
Volume/mnt	9.64	9.53	8.92	1%	8.1%	
Realisation/tonne (Rs)	5015	5353	5,604	-6%	-11%	
Cost/tonne (Rs)	4065	3960	4,559	3%	-11%	
Raw material/tonne (Rs)	422	379	646	11%	-35%	
Staff Cost/tonne (Rs)	254	247	263	3%	-4%	
Power & Fuel/tonne (Rs)	1458	1520	1,708	-4%	-15%	
Freight/tonne (Rs)	1157	1097	1,192	5%	-3%	
Other Expenses /tonne (Rs)	775	717	750	8%	3%	
EBITDA/tonne (Rs)	951	1393	1,046	-32%	-9%	



# Financials (Standalone)

Profit & Loss (Rs Cr)

Y/E March	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Net sales	19586	19636	22368
Other operating income	0	0	0
Total income	19586	19636	22368
Raw Material	1832	1758	1969
Power & Fuel	5581	5582	6196
Freight &Forwarding	4032	4450	4940
Employee benefit expenses	938	988	1086
Other Expenses	2840	3106	3479
EBITDA	4364	3752	4698
Other income	561	565	582
PBIDT	4925	4317	5280
Depreciation	1615	2313	2597
Interest & Fin Chg.	264	251	221
E/o income / (Expense)	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit	3046	1754	2461
Tax provision	436	261	542
RPAT	2610	1493	1920
Minority Interests	0	0	0
Associates	0	0	0
APAT after EO item	2610	1493	1920

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research

Balance Sheet (Rs Cr)

Y/E March	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Total assets	27419	28701	30526
Net Block	8208	10019	11671
CWIP	1833	1833	1833
Investments	10675	10075	9825
Wkg. cap. (excl cash)	3012	3077	3446
Cash / Bank balance	297	270	203
Misc. Assets	3394	3426	3549
Capital employed	27419	28701	30526
Equity capital	36	36	36
Reserves	20348	21625	23328
Minority Interests	0	0	0
Borrowings	2534	2534	2534
DefTax Liabilities	0	0	0
Other Liabilities and Provision	4500	4505	4628



Cash Flow (Rs Cr)

Y/E March	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Profit before tax	3046	1754	2461
Depreciation	1615	2313	2597
Interest Expenses	264	251	221
Non-operating/ EO item	-561	-565	-582
Change in W/C	-624	-65	-369
Income Tax	440	261	542
Operating Cash Flow	3300	3426	3788
Capital Expenditure	-2757	-4124	-4250
Investments	1474	600	250
Others	158	565	582
Investing Cash Flow	-1350	-2959	-3418
Borrowings	-1895	0	0
Interest Expenses	-219	-251	-221
Dividend paid	-379	-216	-216
Financing Cash Flow	-2492	-467	-438
Change in Cash	160	0	-68
Opening Cash	-25	135	135
Closing Cash	135	135	67

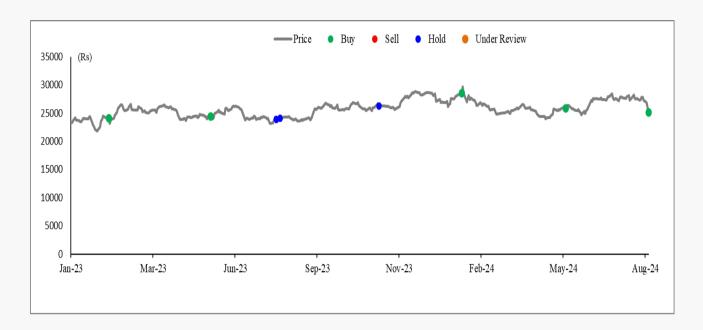


Ratio Analysis (%)

Y/E March	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Operational Ratios			
Sales growth	16%	0%	14%
OPM	22.3%	19.1%	21.0%
Op. profit growth	48%	-14%	25%
COGS / Net sales	58%	60%	59%
Overheads/Net sales	19%	21%	20%
Depreciation / G. block	9.2%	10.6%	10.0%
Efficiency Ratios			
Total Asset Turnover (x)	1.1	0.9	0.9
Sales/Gross block (x)	1.1	0.9	0.9
Sales/Net block(x)	2.6	2.2	2.1
Working capital/Sales (x)	0.2	0.2	0.2
Valuation Ratios			
PE	35	61	47
P/BV (x)	4.4	4.2	3.9
EV/Ebitda (x)	18.7	22.0	17.6
EV/Sales (x)	4.2	4.2	3.7
Return Ratios			
ROE	13.5	7.1	8.5
ROCE	16.3	9.1	11.4
ROIC	33.9	16.5	19.3
Leverage Ratios			
Debt/equity (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1
Net debt/ Equity (x)	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3
Debt service coverage ratio (x)	1.9	1.1	1.5
Interest Coverage ratio (x)	12.5	8.0	12.1
Cash Flow Ratios			
OCF/Sales	19%	19%	19%
OCF/Ebitda	76%	91%	81%
OCF/Capital Employed (%)	16%	16%	16%
FCF/Sales (%)	3%	-4%	-2%
Payout ratio (Div/NP)	8	14	11
AEPS (Rs.)	723	414	533
AEPS Growth (%)	11%	11%	11%
CEPS (Rs.)	1171	1055	1255
DPS (Rs.)	110	60	60



# **Shree Cement Price Chart and Recommendation History**



Date	Reco	TP	Research
09-Feb-23	BUY	26,700	Company Update
22-May-23	BUY	26,700	Result Update
27-Jul-23	HOLD	25,380	Result Update
31-Jul-23	HOLD	25,380	AAA
08-Nov-23	HOLD	25,440	Result Update
01-Feb-24	BUY	31,470	Result Update
16-May-24	BUY	29,350	Result Update
08-Aug-24	BUY	25,610	Result Update

Source: Axis Securities Research



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BUY	More than 10%	
HOLD	Between 10% and -10%	
SELL	Less than -10%	
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock, but we refrain from assigning valuation and recommendation.	
UNDER REVIEW	We will revisit our recommendation, valuation and estimates on the stock following recent events	
NO STANCE	We do not have any forward-looking estimates, valuation or recommendation for the stock	

Note: Returns stated in the rating scale are our internal benchmark.

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