

19 August 2024

India | Equity Research | Q1FY25 results review

NMDC

Metals

Good performance; iron ore price decline to weigh on future earnings

NMDC's Q1FY25 performance was ahead of our and consensus' estimates. Key points: 1) EBITDA at INR 23.4bn (up 17% YoY) was 15% and 18% of our and street's estimates, respectively; 2) royalty as a % of revenue was at 37%, lower than our estimate of 43%; and 3) the impact of SC's judgement on mining cess may be limited as the amount, if any, can be recovered from the customers. Taking cognisance of two recent price cuts, amounting to INR 1,000/te, we have lowered our FY25/26E EBITDA by 15% each, resulting in a revised TP of INR 245 (earlier INR 280). We maintain ADD rating on NMDC.

Good performance on the back of realisation uptick

NMDC's Q1FY25 performance was better than our and street's estimates. Key points: 1) Shipments were down 8% YoY at 10.1mt due to production disruption for a few days in Chhattisgarh; 2) EBITDA/te was up 28% YoY (38% QoQ) mainly due to higher realisation and lower royalty cost; 3) royalty cost as % of revenue was at 37.3%, against the range of 42-45% in the past two quarters; 4) capex of INR 4bn was incurred in the quarter and the management expects to achieve the guidance of INR 22bn in FY25 comfortably. Going ahead, despite lower sales volume in Q1FY25 and heavy monsoons in Q2FY25, management expects to achieve production/sales volume of 50mt and 54mt in FY25 and FY26, respectively, based on the current EC limit of 53.6mt. That said, we expect realisation to be lower as management has taken two price cuts thus far in Q2FY25, amounting to INR 1,000/te (cumulatively), in line with the decline in HRC prices.

Recent SC ruling unlikely to impact

During the post-result concall, management indicated that the recent SC ruling on mining cess is unlikely to have any major financial impact as: 1) Contracts provided for pass through of any additional duties/levies to customers; 2) if certain other demands are treated parallel to the current ruling, management is likely to recover the dues as customer base has remained the same; and 3) NMDC has already been passing on the cess from state government such as FDT, NMET and DMF and recovering the same.

Financial Summary

| Y/E March (INR mn) | FY23A | FY24A | FY25E | FY26E |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Net Revenue | 1,76,669 | 2,13,079 | 2,34,802 | 2,61,429 |
| EBITDA | 60,525 | 72,928 | 75,229 | 87,535 |
| EBITDA Margin (%) | 34.3 | 34.2 | 32.0 | 33.5 |
| Net Profit | 55,384 | 55,722 | 56,723 | 64,213 |
| EPS (Rs) | 18.9 | 19.0 | 19.4 | 21.9 |
| EPS % Chg YoY | (54.4) | 36.1 | (3.1) | 13.2 |
| P/E (x) | 14.8 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 9.9 |
| EV/EBITDA (x) | 9.6 | 7.4 | 6.9 | 6.0 |
| RoCE (%) | 15.0 | 20.1 | 16.8 | 17.1 |
| RoE (%) | 23.5 | 25.2 | 22.1 | 22.2 |

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Market Data

| Market Cap (INR) | 637bn |
|---------------------|---------|
| Market Cap (USD) | 7,591mn |
| Bloomberg Code | NMDC IN |
| Reuters Code | NMDC.BO |
| 52-week Range (INR) | 286/114 |
| Free Float (%) | 39.0 |
| ADTV-3M (mn) (USD) | 35.6 |

| Price Performance (%) | 3m | 6m | 12m |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|------|
| Absolute | (17.9) | (11.0) | 85.5 |
| Relative to Sensex | (26.6) | (21.6) | 61.6 |

| Earnings Revisions (%) | FY25E | FY26E |
|------------------------|--------|--------|
| Revenue | (10.0) | (10.1) |
| EBITDA | (15.1) | (14.5) |
| PAT | (13.4) | (13.6) |

Previous Reports

30-05-2024: Q4FY24 results review 15-02-2024: Q3FY24 results review



Outlook: Volume uptick is the key driver; maintain ADD

In case of NMDC, while realisation is likely to go down due to price cuts taken by the company in Q2FY25-TD, we expect volume uptick to be the major earnings driver. Besides, we do not envisage much impact of the recent SC ruling on mining cess as management indicated during the call that it is pass through for NMDC. However, owing to different iron ore prices across the states and potentially varying mining cess by the states, we would like to assess the situation before taking a view on earnings on this account. That said, taking cognisance of the recent price cuts by NMDC, we have lowered our FY25/26E EBITDA by 15% each, resulting in a revised TP of INR 245 (earlier INR 280). Recently, the stock price has come off due to the concerns over the impact of mining cess, that appears to be exaggerated. We maintain ADD rating on the stock.

Exhibit 1: Earnings revision

| (INID man) | | FY25E | | | FY26E | |
|------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| (INR mn) | New | Old | % Chg | New | Old | % Chg |
| Sales | 2,34,802 | 2,60,977 | (10.0) | 2,61,429 | 2,90,693 | (10.1) |
| EBITDA | 75,229 | 88,614 | (15.1) | 87,535 | 1,02,366 | (14.5) |
| PAT | 56,723 | 65,514 | (13.4) | 64,213 | 74,305 | (13.6) |

Source: I-Sec research

Key risks

Lower than expected sales volume and sharp correction in iron ore prices are the key downside risks to our call. Besides, any adverse change in royalty structure might hit the profitability of the company.

Q1FY25 conference call: Takeaways

 Current capacity is 53.6mt. Management mentioned that the company should be able to do volume of 54mt in FY26 and 50mt in FY25.

NSL updates:

- o Produced ~1.5mnte of hot-mental in 1yrs (Aug 15, '23 to Aug 16, '24).
- Losses have been cutdown to half.
- Logistics is the main issue at the moment. Management mentioned that electrification will be done by end-Sep'24 and the company would be able to dispatch two rakes daily (currently 1 rake).
- o Management expects to breakeven from end-Q2FY25 MoM.
- o Management is expecting to produce 1mnte of HRC by Aug 24 '24.
- Production run-rate on monthly basis: Apr'24 106kte; May'24 120kte; and Jun'24 - 120kte.
- o In Jul'24, monthly production rate fell down due to planned maintenance.
- o Management is targeting monthly production rate of 150kte by end-Q2FY25.
- NSL has paid INR 1bn to NMDC against INR 22.5bn of demerger expenses.
- Management mentioned that it is assessing its liabilities, pursuant to the recent SC order. However, being a mining company (merchant miner), it would be in a position to recover it from its customers. Thus, net effect would be negligible, as stated by the management.



- Out of the 81 cases clubbed by the Honourable Supreme Court, only 1 case pertained to NMDC related Under the Rural Infrastructure & Road Development Act for diamond mining in Penna for which the liabilities could be ~INR 210mn (from CY08 till date). Management is not very hopeful of recovering this liability from its customers.
- Other liabilities pertaining to states of Karnataka & Chhattisgarh were not included in the current judgement. However, if the principles are applied in a parallel manner, then these can accrue.
- NMDC has paid an old demand of INR 1.44bn, in cash to the state of Chhattisgarh in the past. Management expects a similar lability if there is a demand, akin to the recent SC judgement.
- In case of Karnataka, management is expecting net liabilities much larger than Chhattisgarh, at ~INR 24-25bn. If the liabilities come up, management is confident of recovering a substantial part of it from its customers. Furthermore, management has already collected and paid INR 17bn of the same.
- In Chhattisgarh, there is a Forest Transaction fee of INR 57/t and cess of INR 22.5/t
 which is in addition to DMF and royalty. This is being collected from the customers
 and being paid. In Karnataka, FDT is 12% ad-valorem duty.
- NMDC has taken two price cuts of cumulative ~INR 1,000/te, thus, average realisation has come down to ~INR 4,304/te from ~INR 5,304/te. The price cuts are in sync with a similar trend in HRC market.
- Management has maintained its annual guidance of 50mnte. It is confident of meeting its production shortfall of ~1mnte by Oct'24.
- Capex: ~INR 4bn has been spent in Aug '24 so far. NMDC should be able to exceed the capex plan of INR 22bn.
- Slurry pipeline project is of 3 phases: 1) Beneficiation plant; 2) pipeline; and 3) pellet plant. Out of 130km pipeline, 33km has been laid. Pellet and beneficiation plants have been put on hold as the company has been re-designed. By Mar'26, all the 3 phases will be up and running and the entire system will be commissioned by end-CY26.



Exhibit 2: NMDC Q1FY25 performance review

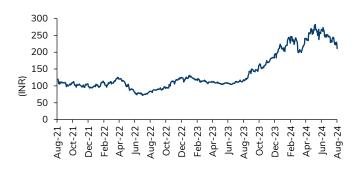
| (INR mn) | Q1FY25 | Q1FY24 | % Chg YoY | Q4FY24 | % Chg QoQ |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Net sales | 54,142 | 53,947 | 0.4 | 64,893 | (16.6) |
| Raw Material Consumed | 40 | 27 | 50.4 | 84 | (52.2) |
| Stock Adjustment | (413) | 767 | (153.9) | (3,807) | (89.1) |
| Strores & Spares | 1,432 | 1,305 | | 2,846 | |
| Gross Margin | 53,083 | 51,848 | 2.4 | 65,770 | (19.3) |
| Gross Margin (%) | 98.0% | 96.1% | | 101.4% | |
| Employee cost | 3,890 | 3,649 | 6.6 | 4,695 | (17.1) |
| Selling expenses including freight | 1,020 | 862 | 18.4 | 1,019 | 0.1 |
| Royalties | 20,228 | 23,189 | (12.8) | 30,690 | (34.1) |
| Other expenditure | 4,546 | 4,212 | 7.9 | 8,348 | (45.5) |
| EBITDA | 23,399 | 19,935 | 17.4 | 21,017 | 11.3 |
| Margin (%) | 43.2% | 37.0% | | 32.4% | |
| Other Income | 3,649 | 2,942 | 24.0 | 4,191 | (12.9) |
| Depreciation | 737 | 692 | 6.5 | 1,106 | (33.4) |
| EBIT | 26,310 | 22,185 | 18.6 | 24,101 | 9.2 |
| Interest | 231 | 62 | 273.0 | 214 | 7.9 |
| PBT | 26,080 | 22,123 | 17.9 | 23,887 | 9.2 |
| Tax expense: | 6,444 | 5,511 | 16.9 | 9,430 | (31.7) |
| PAT | 19,636 | 16,612 | 18.2 | 14,159 | 38.7 |
| | | | | | |
| Production (mnte) | 12.55 | 10.70 | 17.3 | 13.31 | (5.7) |
| Sales Volume (mnte) | 10.08 | 10.98 | (8.2) | 12.51 | (19.4) |
| Realisation (INR/te) | 5,371 | 4,915 | 9.3 | 5,187 | 3.5 |
| EBITDA (INR/te) | 2,321 | 1,816 | 27.8 | 1,680 | 38.2 |

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 3: Shareholding pattern

| % | Dec'23 | Mar'24 | Jun'24 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Promoters | 60.8 | 60.8 | 60.8 |
| Institutional investors | 27.2 | 26.7 | 27.1 |
| MFs and others | 8.7 | 6.3 | 6.4 |
| Fls/Banks | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Insurance | 8.1 | 7.6 | 7.6 |
| FIIs | 10.2 | 12.8 | 12.8 |
| Others | 12.0 | 15.5 | 12.1 |

Exhibit 4: Price chart



Source: Bloomberg Source: Bloomberg



Financial Summary

Exhibit 5: Profit & Loss

(INR mn, year ending March)

| | FY23A | FY24A | FY25E | FY26E |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Net Sales | 1,76,669 | 2,13,079 | 2,34,802 | 2,61,429 |
| Operating Expenses | 1,16,144 | 1,40,150 | 1,59,572 | 1,73,894 |
| EBITDA | 60,525 | 72,928 | 75,229 | 87,535 |
| EBITDA Margin (%) | 34.3 | 34.2 | 32.0 | 33.5 |
| Depreciation & Amortization | 3,362 | 3,507 | 3,969 | 5,909 |
| EBIT | 57,164 | 69,422 | 71,261 | 81,626 |
| Interest expenditure | 752 | 782 | 782 | 782 |
| Other Non-operating Income | 7,682 | 13,709 | 13,268 | 13,961 |
| Recurring PBT | 64,093 | 82,348 | 83,747 | 94,805 |
| Profit / (Loss) from Associates | - | - | - | - |
| Less: Taxes | 21,082 | 23,804 | 27,024 | 30,592 |
| PAT | 43,011 | 58,544 | 56,723 | 64,213 |
| Less: Minority Interest | - | - | - | - |
| Extraordinaries (Net) | 12,373 | (2,822) | - | - |
| Net Income (Reported) | 55,384 | 55,722 | 56,723 | 64,213 |
| Net Income (Adjusted) | 55,384 | 55,722 | 56,723 | 64,213 |

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 6: Balance sheet

(INR mn, year ending March)

| , , | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | FY23A | FY24A | FY25E | FY26E |
| Total Current Assets | 1,70,159 | 2,12,078 | 2,22,540 | 2,33,837 |
| of which cash & cash eqv. | 70,978 | 1,23,637 | 1,41,732 | 1,37,484 |
| Total Current Liabilities & | 32,458 | 47,068 | 47,364 | 47,435 |
| Provisions | 32,436 | 47,000 | 47,304 | 47,433 |
| Net Current Assets | 1,37,701 | 1,65,010 | 1,75,176 | 1,86,402 |
| Investments | 9,347 | 9,512 | 9,512 | 9,512 |
| Net Fixed Assets | 23,888 | 25,205 | 27,486 | 47,827 |
| ROU Assets | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Work-in-Progress | 19,916 | 32,305 | 51,055 | 54,805 |
| Total Intangible Assets | 8,163 | 8,603 | 8,603 | 8,603 |
| Other assets | 36,004 | 38,584 | 38,584 | 38,584 |
| Deferred Tax assests | - | - | - | - |
| Total Assets | 2,61,696 | 3,06,135 | 3,37,333 | 3,72,650 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Borrowings | 21,229 | 33,570 | 33,570 | 33,570 |
| Deferred Tax Liability | - | - | - | - |
| provisions | 12,560 | 14,313 | 14,313 | 14,313 |
| other Liabilities | 1,553 | 1,520 | 1,520 | 1,520 |
| Equity Share Capital | 2,931 | 2,931 | 2,931 | 2,931 |
| Reserves & Surplus | 2,23,278 | 2,53,628 | 2,84,826 | 3,20,143 |
| Total Net Worth | 2,26,208 | 2,56,559 | 2,87,757 | 3,23,074 |
| Minority Interest | 142 | 170 | 170 | 170 |
| Total Liabilities | 2,61,696 | 3,06,135 | 3,37,333 | 3,72,650 |

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 7: Quarterly trend

(INR mn, year ending March)

| | Sep-23 | Dec-23 | Mar-24 | Jun-24 |
|---------------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| Net Sales | 40,140 | 54,099 | 64,893 | 54,142 |
| % growth (YOY) | 20.6 | 45.4 | 10.9 | 0.4 |
| EBITDA | 11,904 | 20,072 | 21,017 | 23,399 |
| Margin % | 29.7 | 37.1 | 32.4 | 43.2 |
| Other Income | 3,210 | 3,366 | 4,191 | 3,649 |
| Extraordinaries | - | (2,523) | (299) | - |
| Adjusted Net Profit | 10,251 | 14,701 | 14,159 | 19,636 |

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 8: Cashflow statement

(INR mn, year ending March)

| | FY23A | FY24A | FY25E | FY26E |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Operating Cashflow | 18,376 | 73,948 | 55,353 | 40,686 |
| Working Capital Changes | (36,146) | 18,567 | 7,930 | (15,475) |
| Capital Commitments | (12,472) | (18,471) | (25,000) | (30,000) |
| Free Cashflow | 5,904 | 55,477 | 30,353 | 10,686 |
| Other investing cashflow | 14,495 | (42,293) | 13,268 | 13,961 |
| Cashflow from Investing Activities | 2,023 | (60,764) | (11,732) | (16,039) |
| Issue of Share Capital | - | - | - | - |
| Interest Cost | (752) | (782) | - | - |
| Inc (Dec) in Borrowings | (8,907) | 12,972 | - | - |
| Dividend paid | (10,993) | (25,209) | (25,525) | (28,896) |
| Others | - | - | - | - |
| Cash flow from Financing Activities | (20,674) | (13,020) | (25,525) | (28,896) |
| Chg. in Cash & Bank balance | (276) | 164 | 18,096 | (4,249) |
| Closing cash & balance | (276) | 164 | 18,096 | (4,249) |

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 9: Key ratios

(Year ending March)

| | FY23A | FY24A | FY25E | FY26E |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Per Share Data (INR) | | | | |
| Reported EPS | 14.7 | 20.0 | 19.4 | 21.9 |
| Adjusted EPS (Diluted) | 18.9 | 19.0 | 19.4 | 21.9 |
| Cash EPS | 20.0 | 20.2 | 20.7 | 23.9 |
| Dividend per share (DPS) | 6.6 | 7.3 | 8.7 | 9.9 |
| Book Value per share (BV) | 77.2 | 87.5 | 98.2 | 110.2 |
| Dividend Payout (%) | 45.0 | 36.3 | 45.0 | 45.0 |
| Growth (%) | | | | |
| Net Sales | (32.0) | 20.6 | 10.2 | 11.3 |
| EBITDA | (52.1) | 20.5 | 3.2 | 16.4 |
| EPS (INR) | (54.4) | 36.1 | (3.1) | 13.2 |
| Valuation Ratios (x) | | | | |
| P/E | 14.8 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 9.9 |
| P/CEPS | 10.8 | 10.8 | 10.5 | 9.1 |
| P/BV | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| EV / EBITDA | 9.6 | 7.4 | 6.9 | 6.0 |
| Dividend Yield (%) | 3.0 | 3.3 | 4.0 | 4.5 |
| Operating Ratios | | | | |
| Gross Profit Margins (%) | 99.3 | 97.3 | 96.2 | 96.4 |
| EBITDA Margins (%) | 34.3 | 34.2 | 32.0 | 33.5 |
| Effective Tax Rate (%) | 32.9 | 28.9 | 32.3 | 32.3 |
| Net Profit Margins (%) | 24.3 | 27.5 | 24.2 | 24.6 |
| Net Debt / Equity (x) | (0.3) | (0.4) | (0.4) | (0.4) |
| Net Debt / EBITDA (x) | (1.0) | (1.4) | (1.6) | (1.3) |
| Fixed Asset Turnover (x) | 4.0 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.3 |
| Inventory Turnover Days | 49 | 47 | 42 | 51 |
| Receivables Days | 81 | 59 | 54 | 58 |
| Payables Days | 8 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| Profitability Ratios | | | | |
| RoCE (%) | 15.0 | 20.1 | 16.8 | 17.1 |
| RoE (%) | 23.5 | 25.2 | 22.1 | 22.2 |
| RoIC (%) | 22.0 | 34.6 | 29.3 | 30.9 |
| Source Company data, I-Sec resea | rch | | | |

Source Company data, I-Sec research



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