

09 November 2024

India | Equity Research | Q2FY25 results review

Equitas Small Finance Bank

Financials

Lack of visibility on credit cost normalisation; FY25 profitability to remain subdued

Equitas SFB's (Equitas) Q2FY25 financial performance continued to be marred by elevated credit cost, which remained lofty at 3.7% vs. 3.5% QoQ, resulting in negligible PAT at INR 129mn (RoA at only 11bps). With sustained stress in MFI and incrementally-higher stress in vehicle loans, PAT during H1FY25 stood at INR 386mn, down 90% YoY. After creating a floating provision of INR 1.8bn during Q1FY25, to lower NNPL ratio below 1%, one-time additional provision of INR 1bn towards MFI portfolio kept credit cost elevated during H1FY25. Factoring in the weak H1FY25 earnings, we cut our earnings estimate by 50%/20% for FY25E/FY26E. We also downgrade the stock to **HOLD** (from Add) and lower our TP to INR 70 (from INR 95), as we cut our target multiple to 1.2x (from 1.5x) on Sep'25E BVPS, considering subdued RoE of 5% in FY25E and only 12% in FY26E.

AUM growth revives; still notably lower than historical run-rate

AUM growth decelerated sharply to <20% YoY in Q1FY25 for the first-time post Covid-19, as it calibrated growth in MFI and maintained this approach in Q2FY25 as well, resulting in growth further moderating to 15% YoY (lowest in past many quarters). However, growth in a few product segments revived during Q2FY25, evident in strong 7% QoQ growth in used CV and SBL, 12% QoQ in used car and 11% QoQ in MSE finance. The same was driven by strong 20% QoQ growth in disbursements during Q2FY25. MFI portfolio fell 6% QoQ and 10% YTD FY25. Management expects strong traction continuing in its non-MFI portfolio.

INR1bn one-off provision towards MFI portfolio dents earnings

PAT, during Q2FY25, fell 50% QoQ to INR 129mn, hit by: 1) an INR 1bn one-off provision towards MFI portfolio and additional INR 0.46bn provision towards strengthening IRAC norms; 2) elevated cost-income ratio at 66%; and 3) a 28bps QoQ contraction in NIM. Overall credit cost stood at 3.6% during H1FY25, adjusted for MFI portfolio provisions the same remained comfortable at 1%. However, management highlighted that stress in its MFI portfolios is likely to continue in the near term, and the same poses a risk of elevated credit cost during H2FY25. Excluding the one-off provision of INR 1.8bn during Q1FY25 towards improving PCR, credit cost stands at 2.6% during H1FY25.

Financial Summary

Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
NII (INR mn)	25,447.2	30,797.6	33,823.9	42,286.9
Op. profit (INR mn)	11,760.1	13,773.6	14,128.1	19,272.6
Net Profit (INR mn)	5,735.6	7,989.6	2,879.2	8,197.1
EPS (INR)	5.2	7.0	2.5	7.2
EPS % change YoY	130.3	36.3	(64.0)	184.7
P/BV (x)	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1
GNPA(%)	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.2
RoA (%)	1.9	2.0	0.6	1.4
RoE (%)	12.2	14.4	4.7	12.3

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Market Data

Market Cap (INR)	78bn
Market Cap (USD)	926mn
Bloomberg Code	EQUITASB IN
Reuters Code	EQUI BO
52-week Range (INR)	117 /66
Free Float (%)	97.0
ADTV-3M (mn) (USD)	4.3

Price Performance (%)	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(13.0)	(27.2)	(28.5)
Relative to Sensex	(13.8)	(35.4)	(50.9)

ESG Score	2022	2023	Change
ESG score	NA	69.1	NA
Environment	NA	44.9	NA
Social	NA	62.1	NA
Governance	NA	84.1	NA

Note - Score ranges from 0 - 100 with a higher number indicating a higher ESG score.

Source: SES ESG, I-sec research

Earnings Revisions (%)	FY25E	FY26E
PAT	(50)	(20)

Previous Reports

28-07-2024: [Q1FY25 results review](#)

25-04-2024: [Q4FY24 results review](#)

Non-MFI products showing signs of revival; disbursements in MFI to remain sluggish

In order to protect NIM and improve profitability, management calibrated its growth strategy and lowered disbursements in low-yielding segments such as NBFC funding and new cars. This resulted in range-bound quarterly disbursements of INR 48–50bn during FY24. The trend continued in H1FY25 amid extended stress in the MFI segment. As a result, total disbursements fell 2% YoY with MFI disbursements falling by 33% YoY during Q2FY25. However, disbursements in non-MFI products showed revival, with growth ranging from 5–90% YoY across segments, except new CV and housing.

Increasing trend in cost of deposits continued, but it rationalises rates during Q2FY25 to manage NIMs in coming quarters

Equitas' differentiated pricing strategy is working well, evident in total deposit growth at 29% YoY/6% QoQ with retail TD growth at 39% YoY. Strong retail TD growth is cannibalising SA growth, in our opinion, given steady decline in CASA ratio to 31% by Sep'24 vs. 38% in June'23. The bank's retail TD contribution, at 69%, as on Sep'24, is among the best in the SFB space. However, cost of deposit continued to rise, evident in blended CoD 7.50% vs. 7.46% QoQ vs. 7.21% YoY with SA cost fell 13bps QoQ to 6.05% and a 4bps QoQ increase in TD cost to 8.37%.

The bank has defined its 'Liability 2.0' strategy to be implemented from 2025–28, which will be driven by its deep understanding of the customer gained over the period of eight years. As part of this strategy, Equitas will move from unit-level sourcing to family-level sourcing whilst continuing to target the mass affluent segments. As it derived comfort from improving liability franchise, it reduces interest rate tiers in savings accounts and also cut 444-day TD rates to 8.25% w.e.f. Oct'24 from earlier rate of 8.5%. Given SA rate rationalization in Jul'24 already resulting in 13bps QoQ moderation in SA cost during Q2FY25, it expects cut in TD rate to bring down overall CoF in coming quarters.

Sustained stress in MFI resulted in >5% slippage ratio; management expects revival only by Q4FY25

Fresh slippages during Q2FY25 increased to INR 5.1bn (annualised 6% vs. 4.8% QoQ vs. 3.8% YoY), of which slippage ratio in MFI remained at 8.7% and 5.2% for the non-MFI portfolio. Similarly, write-offs too remained elevated at INR 1.5bn vs. INR1.1bn QoQ. Higher slippages and management's decision to provide additional INR 1bn towards MFI portfolio resulted in credit cost at 3.7%. Management further highlighted that stress in MFI (~16% of portfolio) is likely to continue in near-term; hence, it would continue to observe emerging trends in collection in Q3FY25. Overall, GNPL ratio increased to 2.95% vs. 2.73% QoQ with GNPL in MFI portfolio increasing to 4.8% vs. 3.8% QoQ, SBL to 2.19% vs. 2.03% QoQ, MSE to 9.35% vs. 7.04% QoQ. SMA 0 and 1 portfolio at the bank level and in the MFI segment continued to rise on a sequential basis. As on Sep'24, total SMA book stands at 5.2% for MFI segment and >8% at the bank level (including MFI portfolio). MFI portfolio in 31–90 DPD bucket has increased to 3.75% in Q2FY25, from 2.32% in Q1FY25 and 3.98%, as on Oct'24.

Key risks

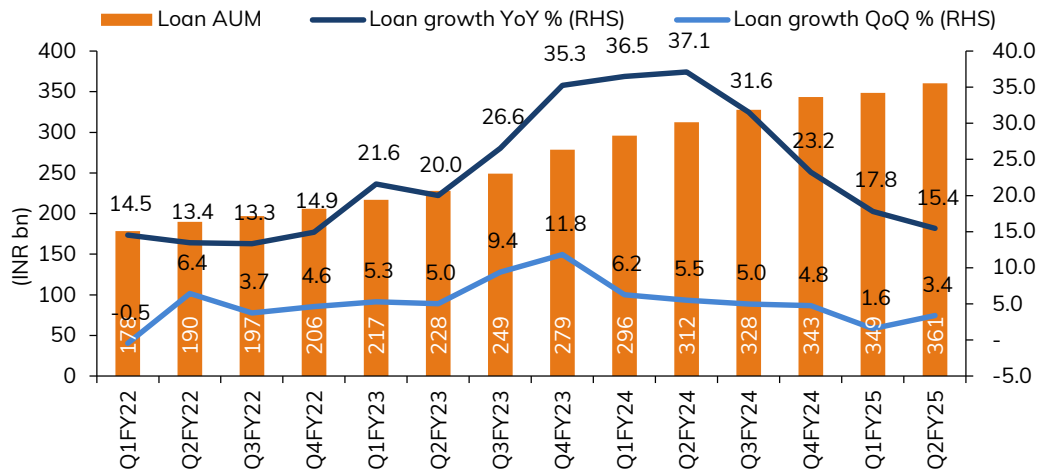
- Lower than anticipated stress
- Deceleration in AUM growth

Exhibit 1: Q2FY25 result review

Profit and loss (INR mn)	Q2FY25	Q2FY24	% chg YoY	Q1FY25	% chg QoQ
Interest Income	15,549	13,590	14.4	15,010	3.6
Interest Expended	7,526	5,934	26.8	6,995	7.6
Net interest income (NII)	8,023	7,656	4.8	8,015	0.1
Other income	2,389	1,814	31.7	2,087	14.5
Total income	10,412	9,470	10.0	10,102	3.1
Operating expenses	6,915	6,168	12.1	6,698	3.2
-Staff expenses	4,024	3,315	21.4	3,747	7.4
-Other expenses	2,891	2,853	1.3	2,951	-2.0
Operating profit	3,497	3,302	5.9	3,404	2.7
Total provisions	3,297	632	421.6	3,046	8.2
Profit before tax	201	2,670	-92.5	358	-43.9
Tax	72	689	-89.6	100	-28.3
Profit after tax	129	1,981	-93.5	258	-50.0
Balance sheet (INR mn)	Q2FY25	Q2FY24	% chg YoY	Q1FY25	% chg YoY
Gross NPL (INR mn)	10,228	6,605	54.9	8,890	15.0
Gross NPL (%)	2.95	2.1	83	2.7	22
Net NPL (INR mn)	3,303	2,790	18.4	2,641	25.0
Net NPL (%)	1.0	0.9	6	0.8	14
Coverage ratio	67.1	57.1	1,004	69.6	(248)
Ratios (%)	Q2FY25	Q2FY24	% chg YoY	Q1FY25	% chg YoY
Profitability ratios					
Yield on Advances	16.5	16.5	(1)	0.0	1,649
Cost of Funds	7.5	7.2	29	7.5	4
NIM	7.69	8.4	(74)	8.0	(28)
RoaA	0.1	2.0	(192)	0.2	(11)
RoaE	0.9	14.6	(1,376)	1.7	(86)
Business & Other Ratios					
CASA ratio	31.0	34.0	(300)	31.0	-
Cost-income ratio	66.4	65.1	128	66.3	11
CAR	19.4	21.3	(197)	20.6	(119)
AuM mix	Q2FY25	Q2FY24	% chg YoY	Q1FY25	% chg YoY
Micro Finance	56,360	58,780	-4.1	59,730	-5.6
Vehicle Finance	88,770	77,770	14.1	84,720	4.8
Used CV	41,850	36,750	13.9	38,950	7.4
New CV	31,890	31,180	2.3	32,380	-1.5
Used Car	15,030	9,840	52.7	13,390	12.2
Small Business Loans	1,65,470	1,29,500	27.8	1,54,410	7.2
Small Business Loans & Agri loans	1,46,780	1,15,500	27.1	1,37,470	6.8
MSE Finance	13,660	10,380	31.6	12,350	10.6
Others	5,030	3,620	39.0	4,590	9.6
Housing Finance	43,890	35,820	22.5	43,420	1.1
Corporate Loans	6,040	10,420	-42.0	6,430	-6.1
Total	3,60,530	3,12,290	15.4	3,48,710	3.4

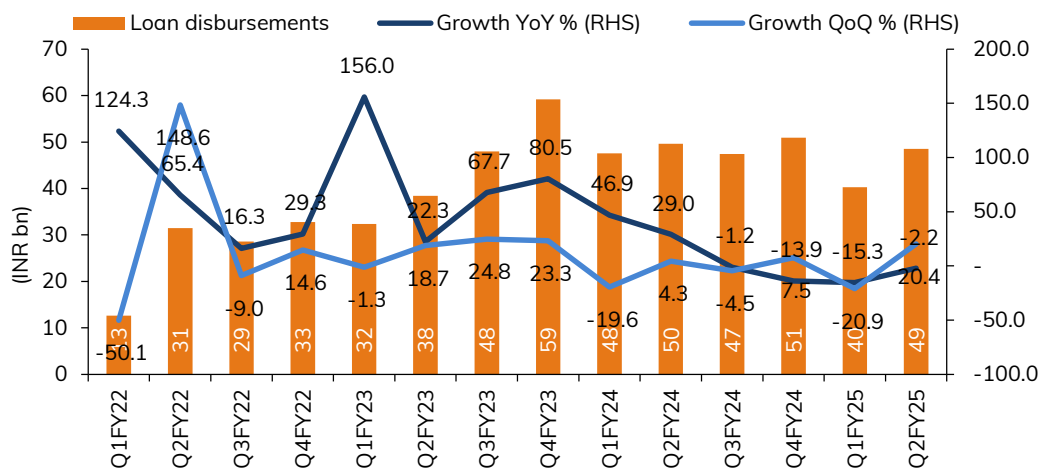
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 2: Growth deceleration continued; however, non-MFI segments showing signs of revival in Q2FY25



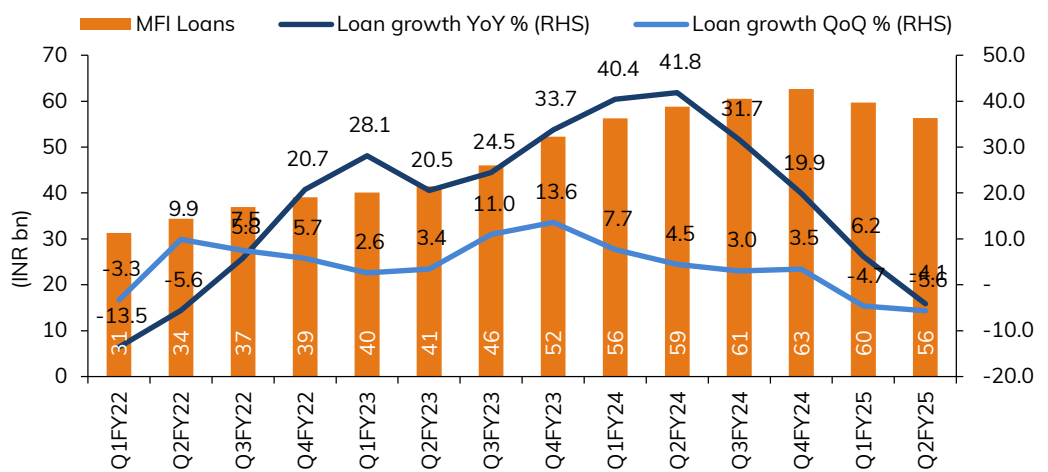
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 3: Extended stress in MFI segment and management’s cautious approach resulted in lower disbursements during H1FY25...



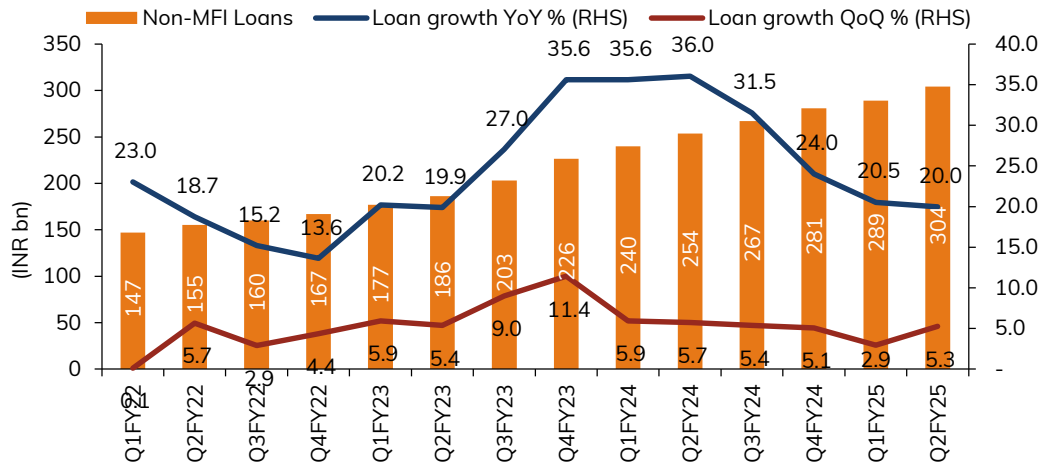
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 4: ...the same resulted in subdued growth in MFI segment



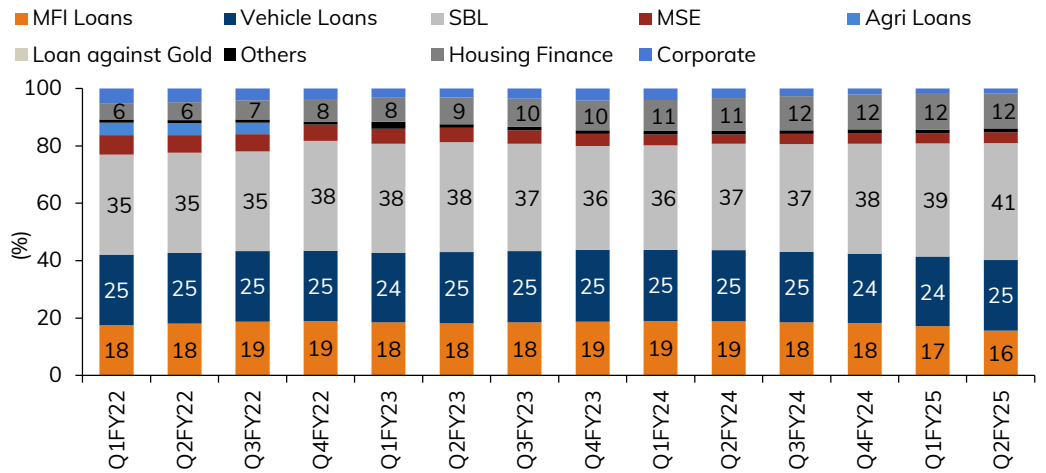
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 5: Sequential growth in non-MFI book bounced back to 5% during Q2FY25, after falling to 3% in Q1FY25



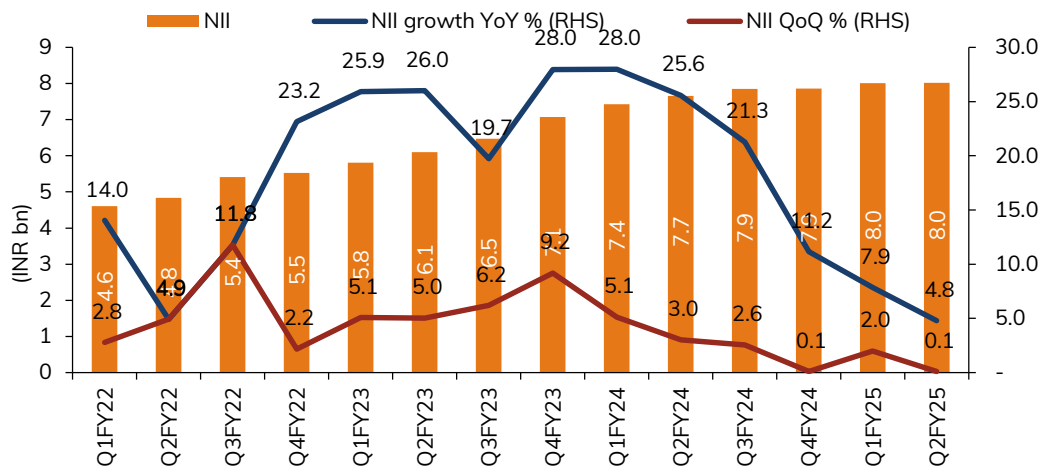
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 6: SBL share inching up gradually in overall book



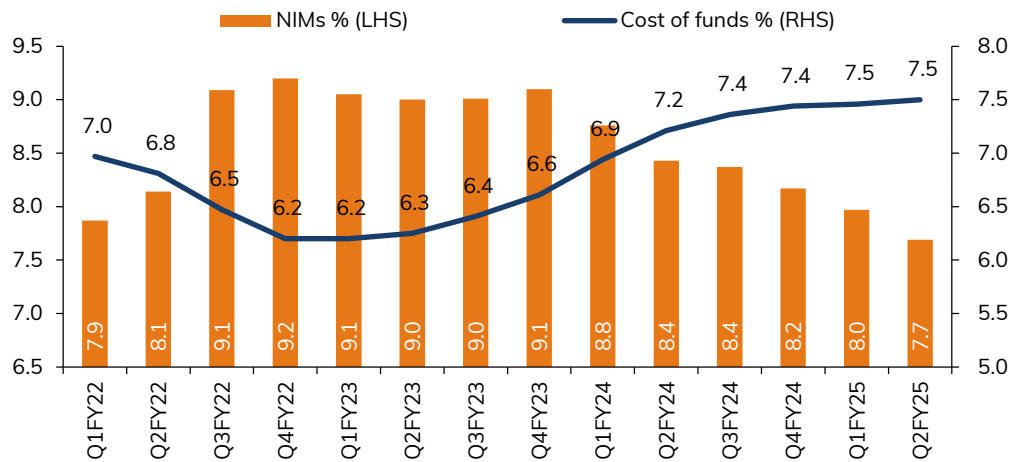
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 7: NII flat QoQ, due to <20bps QoQ NIM contraction



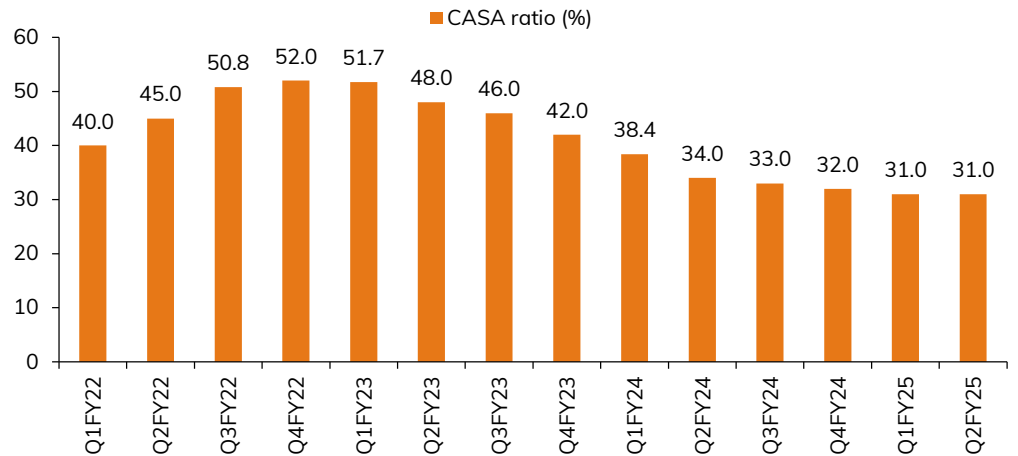
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 8: Increasing trend in cost of deposits continued during Q2FY25; however, rate rationalisation in Jul'24 and Oct'24 to provide cushion to NIM going ahead



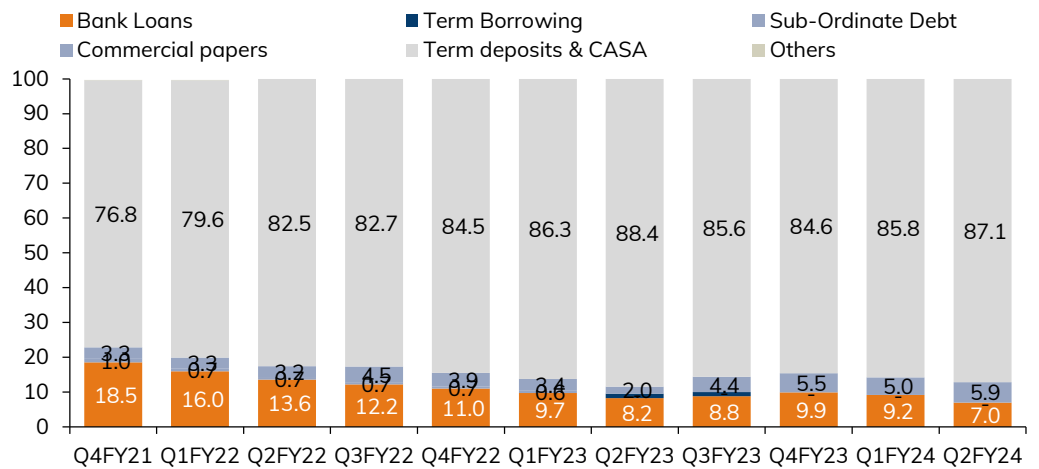
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 9: CASA ratio remained flat QoQ at 31% during Q2FY25



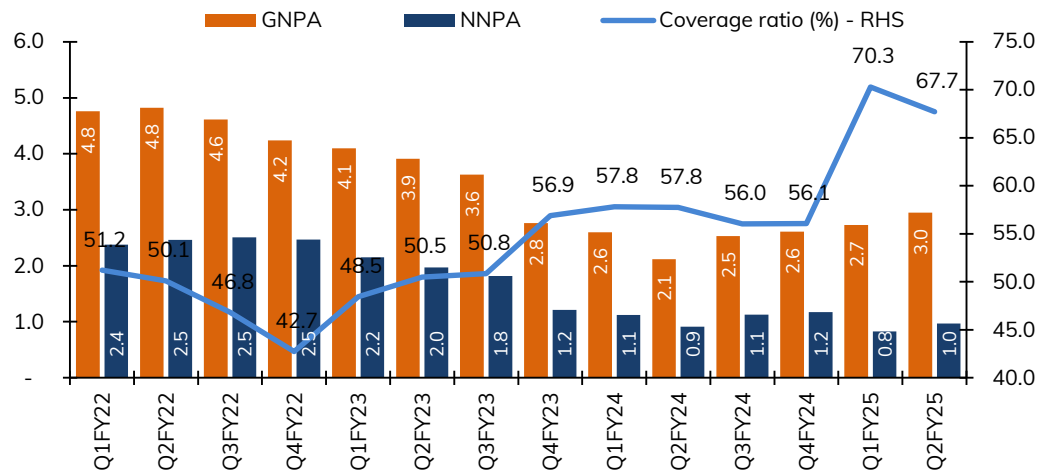
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 10: Liabilities shaping up well



Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 11: Fresh slippages increased due to higher stress in CV and MFI, which led to rise in GNPA



Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 12: Shareholding pattern

%	Mar'24	Jun'24	Sep'24
Promoters	0.0	0.0	0.0
Institutional investors	64.7	65.1	60.6
MFs and other	38.2	38.4	38.2
FIs/ Banks	0.0	2.6	2.9
Insurance	4.5	4.4	2.6
FIIIs	22.1	19.7	16.9
Others	35.3	34.9	39.4

Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research

Exhibit 13: Price chart



Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research

Financial Summary

Exhibit 14: Profit & Loss

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Interest income	41,619	54,864	64,955	79,457
Interest expense	(16,172)	(24,066)	(31,131)	(37,170)
Net interest income	25,447	30,798	33,824	42,287
Non interest income	6,696	7,987	8,934	10,787
Operating income	32,143	38,784	42,758	53,074
Operating expense	(20,383)	(25,011)	(28,630)	(33,802)
- Staff expense	(10,967)	(13,688)	(14,733)	(16,422)
Pre-provisions profit	11,760	13,774	14,128	19,273
Core operating profit	11,760	13,774	14,128	19,273
Provisions & Contingencies	(4,072)	(3,142)	(10,297)	(8,365)
Pre-tax profit	7,688	10,631	3,831	10,907
Tax (current + deferred)	(1,952)	(2,642)	(952)	(2,710)
Net Profit	5,736	7,990	2,879	8,197
Adjusted net profit	5,736	7,990	2,879	8,197

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 15: Balance sheet

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Cash and balance with RBI/Banks	12,443	35,004	22,848	28,103
Investments	66,646	90,653	1,22,382	1,50,529
Advances	2,57,986	3,09,643	3,76,814	4,59,713
Fixed assets (Net block)	3,791	6,047	6,350	6,667
Other assets	8,716	10,906	11,997	13,197
Total assets	3,49,581	4,52,253	5,40,391	6,58,210
Deposits	2,53,806	3,61,290	4,66,064	5,73,259
Other interest bearing liabilities	44,196	17,092	11,760	14,187
Other liabilities and provisions	14,459	14,184	15,603	17,163
Share capital	11,106	11,349	11,349	11,349
Reserve & surplus	40,474	48,338	51,217	59,414
Total equity & liabilities	3,49,581	4,52,253	5,40,391	6,58,210

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 16: Key ratios

(Year ending March)

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
No. of shares and per share data				
No. of shares (mn)	1,111	1,135	1,135	1,135
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	5.2	7.0	2.5	7.2
Nominal Book Value per share (Rs)	46	53	55	62
Adjusted BVPS (Rs)	44	49	52	59
Valuation ratio				
PER (x)	13.3	9.7	27.1	9.5
Price/ Nominal Book (x)	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1
Profitability ratio				
Yield on advances (%)	16.7	17.3	16.5	16.5
Yields on Assets	14.0	14.2	13.6	13.7
Cost of funds	6.5	7.3	7.4	7.2
NIMs (%)	8.5	8.0	7.1	7.3
Cost/Income (%)	(63.4)	(64.5)	(67.0)	(63.7)
Dupont Analysis (as % of Avg Assets)				
Interest Income	13.4	13.7	13.1	13.3
Interest expended	(5.2)	(6.0)	(6.3)	(6.2)
Net Interest Income	8.2	7.7	6.8	7.1
Non-interest income	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.8
Total Income	10.4	9.7	8.6	8.9
Staff costs	(3.5)	(3.4)	(3.0)	(2.7)
Non-staff costs	-	-	-	-
Total Cost	(6.6)	(6.2)	(5.8)	(5.6)
PPoP	3.8	3.4	2.8	3.2
Non-tax Provisions	(1.3)	(0.8)	(2.1)	(1.4)
PBT	2.5	2.7	0.8	1.8
Tax Provisions	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.2)	(0.5)
ROA (%)	1.9	2.0	0.6	1.4
Leverage (x)	6.8	7.6	8.6	9.3
ROE (%)	12.6	15.1	5.0	12.7
Asset quality ratios				
Gross NPLs (%)	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.2
Net NPLs (%)	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.9
PCR (%)	56.9	56.1	60.0	60.0
Gross Slippages (% of PY loans)	5.6	4.4	3.6	3.6
Net NPLs / Networth (%)	6.0	6.0	5.6	5.7
Capitalisation ratios				
Tier I cap.adequacy (%)	23.8	20.4	17.6	16.5
Total cap.adequacy (%)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

Source Company data, I-Sec research

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