

■ Corporate Performance



Hari Shankar Singhania

J K LAKSHMI CEMENT

Crossing 1000-cr. sales mark

J. K. Lakshmi Cement has reported a lackluster performance in the quarter ended March 2008, registering only modest increases in income and earnings. The total income increased to Rs. 292.97 crore from Rs. 264.35 crore in the corresponding period last year, the net profit rose to Rs. 67.63 crore from Rs. 60.83 crore.

The numbers for the year ended March 2008 throw up a better picture. Net sales jumped from Rs. 843.83 crore in 2007-08 to Rs 1107 crore, indicating a growth of 31 per cent. Net profit increased by 26 per cent to Rs. 223.67 crore from Rs. 178.11 crore in the previous year. The earning per share (EPS) for the year 2007-08 works out to Rs. 53.36 on a larger equity capital of Rs. 61.19 crore, compared with an EPS of Rs. 40.39 on an equity capital of Rs. 57.09 crore a year ago. The directors have recommended a final dividend of 15 per cent, bringing the total dividend for the year to 25 per cent.

Cement production (including clinker for sale) during the year was up 15 per cent to 36.10 lakh tonnes, whereas cement sales registered a growth of 21 per cent at 34.61 lakh tonnes.

According to Mr. Hari Singhania, chairman, capacity expansion projects in progress were completed in time. The company is planning to expand the capacity of its existing plant to about 5 million tonnes and additionally set up 20 ready mix concrete (RMC) plants at a total cost of about Rs 600 crore.. The capacity enhancement is expected to be completed by October 2008.

Besides, the company is taking up a greenfield project in Chattisgarh with an investment of Rs 1100 crore . The project would raise the capacity from 5 million tonnes to about 8 million tonnes. ■