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Industry Overview

Manmade fibres (MMF) can be broadly categorised under two heads- Synthetic and Cellulosic. Under the Synthetic fibre segment, there are three types of major fibres- polyester staple fibre (PSF), acrylic staple fibre (ASF) and nylon staple fibre (NSF); whereas under Cellulosic, viscose staple fibre (VSF) constitutes the major proportion. Unlike other MMFs, VSF is not synthetic and is made from wood pulp, a naturally occurring cellulose-based fibre. Polyester segment accounts for more than 80% of the total MMF industry. MMF is primarily used to produce blended fabrics (blended with cotton or other MMFs) and 100% non-cotton fabrics, which are further used in the manufacturing of readymade garments, home textiles and other industrial textiles. The manmade yarn industry is relatively fragmented compared to the MMF industry, with both small and large spinners operating in the segment.

The Government of India has notified uniform GST rate on MMF, MMF yarn, MMF fabrics and apparel that has addressed the inverted tax structure in the MMF textile value chain. The changed rates have come into effect from 1st January 2022. This will help the MMF segment grow and become competitive globally.

Rating Methodology

CARE Ratings has a standard methodology for the rating of companies belonging to the manufacturing sector. As per this methodology, CARE Ratings' rating process begins with the evaluation of the economy/industry in which the company operates, followed by the assessment of the business-risk factors specific to the company. This is followed by an assessment of the financial and project-related risk factors as well as the quality of the management. This methodology is followed while analysing all the industries that come under the purview of the manufacturing sector. However, considering the size and diversity of the sector, CARE Ratings has developed methodologies specific to various industries within the sector. These methodologies attempt to point out factors, over and above those mentioned in the broad methodology, which will be assessed while carrying out rating exercises of companies belonging to the particular industry.

Please click on the link to refer [Manufacturing Criteria](#).

The following are such additional factors, along with their analytical implications, considered by CARE Ratings while arriving at the rating of the players that operate in the manmade yarn manufacturing industry.

A) Business and Operational Risks

1. Operational Efficiency

Raw material (fibre) cost constitutes the largest portion of the total operational cost in a man-made yarn spinning company. Polyester is the largest contributor to the entire man-made fibre/ yarn value chain and a direct substitute of cotton. Any price change in cotton fibre and its relative availability has a direct impact on the prices of PSF. The prices of PSF are also dependent on the prices of PTA (purified terephthalic acid) and MEG (mono ethylene glycol), the two petrochemical derivatives, costs of which are subject to volatility in the crude oil prices. For a company manufacturing PSF, primary raw material would be PTA and MEG. For companies engaged in polyester yarn manufacturing, raw material can vary from PTA & MEG to Polyester Chips or Partially Oriented Yarn (POY)/PSF depending on the level of backward integration. Being

derivatives of crude oil, prices are inherently volatile in nature, making the margins of the spinners susceptible to adverse fluctuations in the fibre prices. The prices of ASF and NSF are also crude oil dependent, while the prices of VSF are dependent on the prices of wood pulp. Apart from the fluctuation in the prices of the feed-stocks, global supply-demand and exchange rate volatility also have an impact on the price of a particular MMF.

Manmade yarn spinning companies are analysed based on their raw material procurement strategies and the ability to manage the volatility. Spinning companies which are capable of producing multiple counts and blends of yarns using different varieties of fibres are viewed favourably by CARE Ratings. It allows them to shift from one variety to the other in case of price fluctuation in a particular category. Distance of the spinning mill from the raw material supplier is also an important factor. Mills located close to the raw material suppliers are at an advantageous position as it allows them to save on their inward freight costs and are viewed positively. Furthermore, companies which have integrated nature of business (from fibre-to-yarn or yarn-to-fabric) at a single location are viewed favourably as it leads to saving in packing and transportation cost.

Power cost forms the next major cost component for a company engaged in the manmade yarn spinning segment. Depending on the state in which the unit is located and the source of power it uses, 'power cost per unit produced' can vary for different players. Different power tariffs and quality of supply in different states can put certain players at an advantageous position compared to their peers. Also, players using captive generation have an assured and uninterrupted supply of power. However, the same increases their capex requirement. The power cost incurred will also depend on the source of power (viz., coal, diesel, or renewable) being used in the captive power unit, which again can lead to difference in 'power cost per unit produced' for different mills. Managements' initiatives in reducing power cost are looked at favourably. Power cost will also be a function of level of modernisation of the plant, as relatively less power cost will be associated with a more modernised plant and vice versa.

2. Inventory Management

Manmade yarn manufacturers do not face seasonality risk like their cotton counterparts. Despite that, inventory management plays a crucial role owing to the linkage of the raw material with crude oil prices, etc. Track record of the entity in terms of inventory stocking along with its prevailing inventory policy is looked at closely. CARE Ratings analyses the inventory carried by a company and compares it with the other peer group entities. Mills maintaining optimal raw material and finished goods inventory (as compared with peers in the industry) are generally insulated from the adverse movement in the raw material prices or demand slowdown and are viewed favourably. Owing to the competitive nature of the industry, any adverse inventory fluctuation can have an impact on the overall financial risk profile of a company. Hence, inventory management plays a very important role as companies procuring optimum quantity of MMF and stocking the raw material can ensure availability of good quality raw material at a reasonable price. At the same time, because of the inherent volatility in the MMF prices, excess stocking can expose the companies to the risk of inventory loss.

3. Scale and Flexibility

In the manmade yarn industry, which is characterised by high competition, size and capacity utilisation level of the plant, play an important role in the financial performance of a company. Large scale of operations leads to higher bargaining power for a company and enables it to access different markets.

Large capacities producing same variety of products lead to optimal utilisation of the mills and offer the benefits of economies of scale, leading to better profitability margins. However, the level of production for two similar capacity units will depend on the specification of products being manufactured. At the same time, companies having flexibility to manufacture diverse varieties of yarns (multiple count/denier, blended or different varieties of value-added yarns) are looked at favourably as it allows the mills to account for lower/ higher demand in one particular variety and hence provides stability to the revenue stream. CARE Ratings views companies having the flexibility to offer multiple product categories to be better equipped to withstand cyclical demand. Furthermore, players having 'finer count' yarn in their product mix, cater to the elite market segment where demand is relatively price inelastic and margins are high.

4. Level of Integration

Manmade yarn spinning mills having forward or backward integration are looked at favourably by CARE Ratings. Yarn manufacturers can either have backward integration into fibre manufacturing or forward integration into fabric manufacturing or into certain value addition jobs (yarn dyeing, etc.). By having multiple processes of the manufacturing value chain, in-house, the value addition at various stages leads to cost savings and eventually better profitability margins for such companies. Furthermore, a company having upstream capacities commensurate to the downstream capacities ensure that the benefits of manufacturing process integration are completely obtained by that company. Such companies are hence viewed positively by CARE Ratings.

In an integrated unit, cost saving will also be a function of the level of modernisation at the mill as a more modernised plant will have better profitability margins owing to better efficiency.

5. Geographical and Customer Diversification

CARE Ratings closely looks at the concentration of sales towards any particular end-customer or a dealer or a particular geography while evaluating the companies.

- Geographical diversification: Players catering to both domestic as-well-as export markets can diversify the risk of sluggishness in a particular market. Export-oriented companies catering to different countries have lower country-specific risk.
- Customer diversification: CARE Ratings analyses the revenue contribution of top five customers whom the company supplies to. Diversified customer base helps mitigate the risk of business getting affected in case financial health of the counterparty deteriorates. This holds high importance due to the cyclical nature of the textile industry. Apart from that, CARE Ratings also looks at the channel-wise break-up of sales derived from top-5 customers. Direct sales to end-customers can lead to better profitability margins for the yarn manufacturers vis-à-vis sales made through the dealer network or through buying houses. However, the same can lead to elongated payment terms. Sales through the dealer network, on the other hand, can result in bulk procurement from the mills and timely payment realisation.

6. Fiscal Incentives and Regulatory Risks

The Government of India provides various fiscal incentives [Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), duty drawbacks, etc.] to companies operating in the manmade yarn manufacturing. In addition to that, in order to promote investment, certain state governments also provide fiscal incentives in the form of capital or interest subsidy to players setting up new spinning units or undertaking modernisation at their existing units. These incentives constitute a major portion of the profitability margins of the companies and are looked at closely. CARE Ratings analyses various incentives available to a company and the impact of the same on the profitability, capital structure and debt coverage indicators for the eligible company.

Furthermore, the industry is governed by various central government regulations including GST rates, duties imposed on the import of various manmade fibres/ yarns, etc. Fragmented and competitive nature of the industry and competition with the cotton yarn segment limits the ability of manmade spinning companies to completely pass on any major increase in the prices of raw material to their customers and can hence affect their profitability margins. Companies also face the risk of removal or lowering of various incentives given by the state and central governments. Hence, CARE Ratings closely monitors the key policy decisions taken by both the central government and the state governments.

B) Financial Risk

Liquidity requirements

Owing to the volatile nature of raw material prices, cyclicity inherent in the manmade yarn industry and fixed nature of expenses, the companies engaged in manmade yarn manufacturing need to have sufficient liquidity cushion at any point in time to meet both- their operational expenses and debt obligations. The companies having sufficient liquidity to counter the cyclicity and volatility in the raw material prices are viewed positively by CARE Ratings. CARE Ratings assesses the cushion available in the working capital limits along with the management intent to maintain liquidity at any given point in time. CARE Ratings also closely looks at the current and the quick ratios along with the receivable position (apart from the inventory position; as discussed above) of the companies engaged in the manmade yarn manufacturing to analyse the liquidity profile.

CARE Ratings also evaluates the top clients of the entity for their overall credit quality. Business relation with strong counter-parties is a reflection of the quality of the company's offerings and assurance of timely payments. In addition to that, CARE Ratings also analyses the receivable position of the company. Debtor ageing profile along with concentration of debtors is looked at closely. Concentration of debtors towards financially weak entities can lead to slow realisation of proceeds or write-offs in the future.

The receivable position of a company may vary depending on the geographies catered to, with entities deriving significant income from exports generally having elongated average collection period. Entities taking Letter of Credits (LCs) from their clients and having cover from Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) are viewed positively.

Capital structure and debt coverage indicators

Owing to the capital-intensive nature of business, companies operating in the industry typically have high reliance on external debt to fund their fixed capital expenditure and working capital requirements. Fiscal benefits provided by various governments [Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) benefits provided by the central government to the spinning players in the past or fiscal incentives provided by various state governments] have also encouraged various entities to aggressively increase their installed capacities or set-up new capacities. Hence, the leverage ratios and coverage indicators of the companies in this industry are closely looked at in conjunction with their overall liquidity profile. Analysis of these ratios also holds importance due to the cyclical nature of the industry as comfortable capital structure and debt coverage indicators will make the company less vulnerable to cyclical downturns. Some of the ratios analysed by CARE Ratings include: long-term debt/ tangible network; total-debt/ tangible network; total debt/ PBILDT; total outside liabilities/ tangible network; PBILDT/ Interest cost; Debt Service Coverage Ratio.

Forex exchange risk analysis

Many companies in the manmade yarn industry are exposed to foreign exchange risk due to export of yarn and/or import of fibre. Though a company might be naturally hedged to an extent, policies of the company to mitigate the risk by availing of working capital borrowings in foreign currency, entering into derivative contracts, etc., are closely looked at.

7. Environment, social and governance (ESG) risk factors

CARE Ratings in its overall credit rating framework analyses the critical ESG risks and their impact on the credit profile of the entities. CARE Ratings analyses the materiality of ESG risk factors and mitigating factors, if any, being implemented by the entity.

Manmade yarn manufacturers face environment risks related to compliance with stringent pollution control norms set by the regulatory authorities w.r.to air and water pollution due to crude based raw materials. Also, they are exposed to the proper disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste which gets generated during the manufacturing process. The pollution control norms are also being strengthened day by day. Any violation in compliance with pollution control norms or strengthening of these norms would adversely impact operations. The entities which are gradually investing/ upgrading their infrastructure to meet the pollution control norms related to air/ water pollution and hazardous waste, would be viewed favourably.

MMF entities face social risks related to labour-relation risk and are also exposed to social unrest/strikes within unions/workforce. Further, compliance with the various labour laws and adequate safety for workers provide long-term sustainability.

CARE Ratings looks at the composition of the board of directors and track record of legal and statutory compliance by its management/ directors to understand the corporate governance structure. Further, the quality of disclosures related to financial statements, related party transactions and transparency in sharing information with various stakeholders are also helpful to gauge the corporate governance practices.

Conclusion

The rating outcome is ultimately an assessment of the fundamentals and the probabilities of change in the fundamentals. CARE Rating's Rating Committee based on its experience and holistic judgement analyses each of the above factors and their linkages to arrive at the overall assessment of credit quality, after taking into account the industry's cyclical nature.

While the methodology encompasses comprehensive financial, commercial, economic and management analysis, credit rating is an overall assessment of all aspects of the issuer.

[For previous version please refer 'Rating Methodology – Manmade Yarn Manufacturing' issued in [December 2020](#)]

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