

# HUL net profit up 9%; declares 15% dividend

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi**

FMCG major Hindustan Unilever on Tuesday reported a standalone net profit of ₹2,187 crore for the September quarter, an increase of 9% from ₹2,009 crore reported in the year-ago period. The company announced an interim dividend of 15% per equity share. The profit after tax (PAT) for the company grew 6% sequentially from ₹2,061 crore in the June quarter.

The soap-to-shampoo maker reported an 11% increase in revenue from operations to ₹12,724 crore as against ₹11,442



crore during year-ago period.

“HUL’s domestic consumer growth in the quarter was at 11% year-on-year. Performance was broad-based with all three divisions growing competitively. Business fundamen-

tals remained strong with more than three-fourths of the business gaining market share and penetration,” HUL said in a statement.

Home care segment led the growth in profit, rising 15%. The growth was mainly driven by high double-digit growth in fabric wash, according to a company statement, which mentioned household care continued to perform well and grew on a strong base. Beauty & personal care segment grew 10%, while foods & refreshment grew at 7% against a strong prior year comparator.

The company’s earnings be-

fore interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) margin was at 25% in the second quarter, down 40 basis points y-o-y. However, it is better than 24% in June quarter.

“September quarter witnessed a sequential improvement in trading conditions, albeit remained challenging with unprecedented levels of input cost inflation and subdued consumer sentiments. In this backdrop, we have delivered a strong performance growing topline in double digits and stepping up profitability sequentially,” said Sanjiv Mehta, CMD, HUL.