

L&T Finance Holdings looks to home loan biz as slowdown bites

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MUMBAI: L&T Finance Holdings, the financial services arm of engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T), is betting big on growing its housing finance business as a part of its wider strategic shift to retail business, at a time the economic slowdown has hurt lending to sectors like commercial vehicles and infrastructure.

L&T Finance had forayed into the mortgage finance business by acquiring home loan company Indo Pacific Housing Finance in 2012.

Considering that hous-



■ Sivaraman: Mortgage deal

ing finance is also backed by mortgage of a property, we can perhaps be more aggressive in our growth plans, than in other products. There is already about ₹100-core-plus disbursement per month, which can easily pick up ...For us to be relevant, our book

should be at least about ₹7,000-10,000 crore in about seven-10 years," N Sivaraman, president, L&T Finance Holdings, told *HT*.

The company's housing finance loan book stood at ₹1,567 crore, as of December 30, according to the company's analyst presentation. Home loan disbursements in the third quarter increased 25% quarter-on-quarter to ₹334 crore.

In comparison, the loan book of India's largest mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corp stood at ₹1.92 lakh crore as of December 31.

L&T Finance's Q3 consolidated net profit plunged 63% year-on-year to about ₹110 crore.