

Phillips Carbon Black net plunges

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Phillips Carbon Black Ltd today reported nearly 35 per cent drop in net profit to Rs 20 crore in the October-December 2011 quarter, against the same period in the previous year, in the face of drastic erosion in margins. Sequentially, the company's profits are down from Rs 21 crore in July-September 2011 quarter. The RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group company is India's largest producer of carbon black, used in tyre production. The lower profits came on top of a 19 per cent rise in net sales to Rs 514 crore when compared with corresponding period in previous year. According to the company, the higher sales revenue was attributed by product price revision in response to raw material cost-push. Performance of the company was impacted due to lower offtake by tyre makers and "higher imports of carbon black (in India) from China at Dumping prices", a company press release said. PCBL's shares were down by 3.5 per cent to Rs. 94.50 on the NSE on Tuesday. — **Our Bureau**