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State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur plan for large expansion in eastern India

By [Debasis Sarkar](#), ET Bureau | Updated: Feb 23, 2016, 07:13 PM IST

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SILIGURI: Known for its bold presence in western India, [State Bank of Bikaner](#) and [Jaipur](#) brings in [Eastern India](#) also into its focus. The well known medium sector bank is planning for large [expansion](#) for next FY with a major share of it for eastern India.

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"East and entire Hindi Belt are in our prime focus now. During the next FY, we will have 58 new branches. Leaving 25 for Rajasthan, rest will be in the other parts of the country with major share for Up, [Bihar](#), Bengal and NE. South India is not in our prime focus now," said Mr. J. Ghosh, MD of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, popularly known as SBBJ.

All these new branches are to be opened by August 2016- "To give enough time to the new branches to generate viable business by the end of the fiscal," said Mr. Ghosh.

Mr. Ghosh was at Siliguri today to inaugurate the 1316th branch of the bank here. This becomes the 20th SBBJ branch in Bengal and the second in Siliguri.

"It's true that West is very vibrant in business activities. But it is already over saturated with lot many banks. Against this, Hindi belt and Eastern region still host many business areas untouched and many opportunities untapped. So we have decided to focus in these areas," he added.

After just crossing the Rs 1.5 lakh crore business mark at the end of March 2015, the bank ended 3rd quarter of current fiscal with a business of 1,62,797 crore comprising deposit of Rs. 89,776 crore and advance of Rs 73,021 crore recording a year over year growth of 32.37% in overall business.

"We are confident to have similarly bright figures for the whole financial year," said Mr. Ghosh. But he accepted that the bank could not do much to reduce its Gross NPA load that was recorded as 3,079 crore at the end of Q3 15-16.

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