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Cheruthoni, Idukki Dam, KSEB, Trial Run

Idukki dam: Govt, KSEB set for trial run at 2,398ft

Water Level Reaches 2,396.18ft On Thursday Night; Rain Subsides

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Cheruthoni: The Kerala state electricity board (KSEB) is determined to make maximum use of the water in the catchment area in Idukki dam. On Thursday, KSEB officials said that there has not been any excess water in the dam that needs to be released.

This puts to rest the speculation of any immediate trial run as the water level rise has slowed down and so has the rainfall. However, with the state government and the chief minister plan to conduct a trial run to understand the situation in the event of an emergency water release if there is any spurt in rainfall.

As of now, trial run in Idukki dam will be carried out once the water level reaches 2,398ft. Electricity minister M M Mani, who visited Cheruthoni dam site on Thursday and officiated a



A view of the Idukki reservoir from Cheruthoni on Thursday

meeting of top-level officials and local representatives, categorically stated that there was no chance of the opening or a trial run immediately. There has not been any major rise in water level in the reservoir on Thursday.

"We will have a trial run because the monsoon season is just half way through and

northeast monsoon will follow. We might have a similar kind of high rise in water levels and again such a crisis might crop up. Hence a decision has been taken by KSEB and the state government to release some water. The state government and the board are on the same page on this," Mani said.

KSEB chairman N S Pil-

lai said that at 2,398 ft, an early alarm would be sent out to the public through the district administration.

"We are ready to give a 24-hour notice but if the district administration and the disaster management authority are ready even before that, we will release the water," he said.

"Of the five shutters in the Cheruthoni dam, the one in the middle will be opened to a height of 50cm. It will take about 10 minutes to raise it to that height. The speed of the waters will be at 50,000 litres per second. A total of 0.72 mcm (million cubic meter) of water will be released."

Meanwhile, as per official information, water level in the Idukki reservoir stood at 2,396.18ft at 8pm on Thursday.

Pillai said that KSEB would suffer a loss of Rs 10 lakh per hour by releasing this water.

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