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Kochi, Idamalayar Dam, Shutters Opened, Turbidity Level, Periyar River, Kerala Water Authority (KWA)

Turbidity levels worry KWA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: As four shutters of Idamalayar dam were opened on Sunday, the Kerala Water Authority (KWA) remains worried that it would further increase turbidity in the Periyar.

RIVER PERIYAR

Officials at Aluva water treatment plant said that though turbidity came down to 108 NTU by Saturday evening, the turbidity level increased to 375 NTU by late night. "There is a possibility that opening of more shutters could lead to further increase in turbulence, and it might affect pumping. As of now, we are unable to predict the situation," said a KWA official.

The water authority officials said that landslides and heavy rains can create increased turbulence in the waters.

"We believe that all silt and muck have already been washed down the stream. If the atmosphere remains calm, it is expected that soon we would be able to resume full-fledged pumping," he added.

KWA said that there is a 20% shortage in supply of drinking water and city residents have been complaining of water shortage as well as fleeing by tanker trucks. More than commercial establishments, the restriction on pumping at Aluva has adversely hit individual homes and residential complexes. However, the authorities including district administration are yet to take any action.

In normal circumstances, turbidity is 80 to 120 NTU. The water from the river is treated at the plant and the turbidity level is brought down to 1 NTU for supplying to public, and the maximum permissible limit is 5 NTU.