

## Idukki dam set for renovation

Thursday 02 July 2015 03:32 PM IST

Thodupuzha: The first-ever renovation works on Idukki dam will start next month. The Kerala State Electricity Board is perusing the tenders it received for the first works since the reservoir's commissioning in 1976.

The work is expected to cost Rs 25 crore. Electricity generation will not be affected during the renovation.

Apart from Idukki, 52 hydel power and irrigation reservoirs in Kerala are awaiting renovation with the aid of the World Bank. The project, which is a part of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project, will cost Rs 300 crore. The World Bank will provide 80 per cent of the cost as loan to be repaid in 45 years.

The electricity board is renovating the 12 dams it operates.

Idukki and associated dams of Cheruthoni, Kulamavu, Kallar and Irattayar are among the dams to be renovated in the first stage. Sabarigiri, Edamalayar, Pallivasal, Chenkulam, Panniyar, Neriamangalam, Peringalkuthu, Sholayar, Kuttiyadi, Lower Periyar and Kakkad projects will also be renovated. Work on Sabarigiri and Chenkulam has already started.

The work has to be finished by June 2018, as per World Bank stipulations.

The project involves strengthening the dams, arranging basic facilities, increasing security arrangements, providing communication facilities and installing generators and equipment to record water level.

Electricity board research wing has found that about 3 per cent of Idukki dam's storage capacity has been deposited with silt.

The Idukki project comprises three reservoirs – Idukki, Cheruthoni and Kulamavu. The Idukki dam links the Kuravan Hill and the Kurathi Hill. The only arch dam in the

country, it can withstand high pressure of the water. It does not have shutters. The designing of the dam was held by Canada's SNC company.

Cheruthoni is the largest of the three reservoirs. It has five spillway gates and two outlets. Kulamavu is the smallest reservoir in the project.

The water stored in the Idukki project reservoirs are taken through tunnels to the Moolamattom power plant. The Idukki dam can store water up to 2404 feet above sea level. The Moolamattom power plant has six generators which can generate 130 megawatt electricity.