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INTERVIEW FORM

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Q. What changes are expected in the management of the Israeli water industry in the next decade?

A. Three main changes are expected:

1. The hydrological balance is to be controlled carefully - not as it used to be in the past. The margins of safety of the "one time" reserve that existed in the past are not available any more and un-balanced exploitation of ground water will, therefore, be very harmful.
2. Matters of water quality and water health aspects are to take bigger part of our concern and efforts. This will happen due to the deterioration of the national water quality, the bigger part of the domestic supply and reclaimed sewage water used for irrigation.

3. Replacement of systems and renewal of structures and equipment will consume bigger part of the water budgets since the effective lifetime of many original water systems has already passed.

Q. Will the above bring changes in the national water policies?

A. The new constraints (namely: limited water budgets, new hydrological restrictions, worse water quality and higher quality demands) will call for a new water policy. The details of this policy are not obvious, are not entirely clear to me, and, I think, not yet clear to any body.

Q. What does it mean about the organization of Mekorot?

A. We need more centralized organization. The "Main Office" should have more control over the "Regional Offices" whose number should be reduced from 4 to 3.

Q. And what it can mean about the organization on the national level?

A. Functions must be more clearly defined. The water commissioner should represent the Water Law but not - for example- deal with planning and operation. The Finance Ministry should control the budgets, but not interfere with operation problems which should be exclusively under "Mekorot". At the same time Mekorot should not deal with the long range planning.

- A. One important one is to rate differently the supply to big towns and small ones. The situation now is that the big towns - due to their economy of scale - sell the water to their consumers higher than they buy it from Mekorot and use the gain to finance other activities (not related to water). This is an absurd that the water industry subsidizes the big cities activities.
- Q. Does this relate to the small towns as well?
- A. No. Their supply expenses are high (per cubic meter of water) so that they have to support the water supply from other sources.
- Q. Do the above problems suggest organizational changes in the national water industry management?
- A. One thing that should be considered is to shift the Water Commissioner from the Agriculture Ministry to another Ministry.
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