CHAPTER II

PROFILE OF ECONOMY OF IRAN
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2-1) A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF IRAN:

Iran is situated between latitude 37° and latitude 25° north and between longitude 44° and longitude 61° east. The area of Iran is 1,648,000 square kilometers or 165 million hectares, of which approximately 50 million hectares are classified as cultivable, 20 million hectares are in forest and woodland, and the remaining are deserts, mountains and wasteland.

In the north, the Caspian Sea separates Iran from U.S.S.R., in the south it is bounded by the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, in the east Afghanistan and Pakistan and in the west Turkey and Iraq. Iran lies in the South-West Asia and in the northern hemisphere.

The northern part of the country (the Caspian Sea) is extremely fertile and produces most of the products grown in Iran. In the west, the Provinces of Kurdistan, Bakhtaran and Luristan are mostly hilly and are the homes of nomadic tribes. In the south-west the Province of Khuzistan and the Karun River are the valley areas - rich cereal producing regions. They have also potentialities for the production of long staple cotton. In the extreme south the Province of Fars is another fertile area and is specially noted for the production of the sugar and fruits. The whole of the eastern portion of the country is however a big desert, 200 miles wide and 800 miles long and is agriculturally
2-2) CLIMATE:

The climate is one of the extremes. There are great variations in rainfall. High winds are common, especially in the south-east. The seasons on the plateau are regular. Summer temperatures are in general high with a rapid fall of temperature at night. The mean day maximum in July at Tehran is 99 °Fahrenheit (°F), at Mashhad 92 °F and at Kirman 101 °F. In Sistan the temperature may rise to over 120 °F. The average January temperature on the plateau is 35 °F in the north and north-west and 45 °F in the south and east. In the north-west temperature below zero °F. are not unusual. There is heavy rainfall well distributed throughout the year in the Caspian Littoral with a maximum in early autumn, varying from 50-60 inches in the west to 20 inches in the east, and rising to over 100 inches on the northern slopes of the Alburz (mountains). Bushire has an average of about 10 inches and Khuzistan 10-12 inches with a maximum in December. The eastern end of the Persian Gulf littoral comes under the influence of the south-west monsoon. The average rainfall in Sistan is 2-9 inches and in Baluchistan 3-4 inches.

The plateau lies in the rain shadow of mountains. In general the 10 inch rainfall line follows the inner foothills of the Zagros-Alburz-Kopeh Dagh ring of mountains and marks the boundary between districts where cereals can be cultivated extensively without irrigation and districts dependent upon irrigation. The summer grazing of the nomadic tribes also lies on or near the 10
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