Preface

The available material for a critical study of Land Reforms in Iran is very meagre, very very few scholars in the east and west have come forward to have a serious study of this subject. The only exception of Ms A.K.S. Lambton who had the privilege of travelling through the villages of Iran during her extensive tour programmes in 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1968. She had occasions to meet the peasants, the landowners, officials of the societies and federations, and of the Banks for credit etc and had thus obtained first hand information about the agriculture problems of the country. After acquiring such information she sat up to compose her book in which all the points have so well been co-ordinated that the book had turned to be the most excellent piece of research work. And so far as my knowledge goes no other writer had ventured to do the job in such a commendable manner with the result that the book of Ms Lambton remains to be a unique composition not equalled by any one else. Her book, as she in a tone of scholar's humbleness says, may inspite of its imperfections contribute in some measure to a fuller comprehension of what had been achieved by the Persian Land Reform and of the problems which it still faces.
Thus, there was no alternative but to fall back on this book and quote from it, extensively for which I should be excused. For study like this a tour to Iran is a must and even then it would not necessarily ensure an improvement what Ms Lambton has written.