

## CHAPTER I

### SCOPE AND METHOD

The research for this subject was done jointly by Miss R. K. Mamajiwalla and myself as we are dealing with different aspects of the same topic. Common questionnaires were therefore used.

Table I shows the scope of this exercise, the research for the major part was done during 5/5/59 to 23/5/59. The itinerary of our visit is appended. Due to the shortage of time, we were unable to visit personally the remaining states of Perlis, Perak, Kedah, Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang. Information from these latter states was obtained by post by means of two questionnaires (Appendix IV) which were sent to the respective Commissioners of Lands and Mines. Some of the response from this source was fairly satisfactory, but we had no means of checking the information thus received.

Most of the material collected was obtained primarily from Land and District Offices, and from the Registries of Deeds or Titles. However, the data collected was not of a uniform nature, as methods of land administration vary in the different states due to historical reasons.<sup>1</sup> Most of the material thus obtained was

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1. See International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, The Economic Development of Malaya, (Singapore: The Government Printer, 1955), pp.223-224.

checked against grants and certificates of titles.<sup>1</sup> In some of the Land and District Offices, subdivisional files were not available and therefore material had to be collected from the Registry of Titles (in the former Federated and Unfederated States) or the Registry of Deeds (in the Settlements of Penang<sup>2</sup> and Malacca) in the form of "Transfers of land owned by European or British Registered Companies to Asians." Such returns have to be submitted quarterly to the Federal authorities.

Some data was also obtained from the Labour departments. This was slightly different from that collected in the Land Offices. As a result of these differences, data on subdivision was available only for the States of Penang, Johore, Malacca and Negri Sembilan.

Much more data could have been obtained had it not been for the fact that quite a substantial proportion of it was confidential. However, further information was obtained by interviewing Heads of Land and Labour officers, officers of the Rubber Industry Replanting Board and several land and sharebrokers. Unfortunately not all the abovementioned persons were able to provide the necessary data. This was due to the fact that the officers concerned had been administering their districts for a few months at the most. (E.g. District Officers of Butterworth, Nibong Tebal and Kuala Lumpur; Commissioner

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1. Grants are issued in respect of first alienations of land. All subsequent transfers are recorded in the form of certificates of Title. This applies to the whole of the Federation with the exception of Malacca.

2. Unless otherwise mentioned, Penang means Penang Island and Province Wellesley.

of Lands and Mines, Johore, and Malacca and the Commissioner for Labour, Negri Sembilan). There were others who could have given the information but were unwilling to do so.

Some limitations, therefore, on our research were the lack of sufficient time, the lack of uniformity in the Land Administration of the country and the lack of any reliable published statistics on the subject.