was installed in the Government House, New Delhi in 1892. Great strides have since been made in the development of both techniques and services.

In 1947 Pakistan Post and Telegraph Department came into existence in line with the IP&TD. The then East Pakistan inherited a few Central Office type Manual Telephone Exchanges, Rural Auto Exchanges for local telephone communication, few land- line carrier systems for long-distance telephone, VFT systems and instruments for Telegraph services and one coastal station at Chittagong with HF wireless transmitters and receivers for ship- to-shore communication. All the apparatus and plant were of UK origin from companies such as GEC, STC and Marconi.

In the early fifties, Siemens from FRG proved better in local exchanges, land-line multi-channel carrier and VFT Systems and captured the Pakistan market. All the GEC exchanges and STC carrier and VFT systems were replaced. The first auto exchange was installed in Dhaka in 1954. Siemens consolidated their position further by establishing two Telephone factories - TIP at Haripur, (now in Pakistan) and Telephone Industries Corporation (TIC) at Tongi (just outside Dhaka), now known as the Telephone Shilpa Shangstha Limited, and one cable factory at Khulna. However, HF Wireless Communication, vital for overseas and Dhaka - Karachi communication, continued to be dominated by Marconi and AWA from Australia. Siemens also came up with a multi-channel VHF terrestrial link for the then East Pakistan, first of its kind in this sub-continent , and installed it at Khulna - Barisal and Khulna- Mongla in 1956. But they could not sustain their ground in this field . RCA beat them with 72-channel VHF links, installed all over the then East Pakistan.

In 1962, the Pakistan P&T Department was bifurcated and a new Government Department known as Pakistan Telegraph and Telephone Department (PT&TD) was established for development, operation and maintenance of telecom services. Bangladesh inherited this Department in 1971 along with telecom systems of every kind-auto exchanges, manual exchanges , PABXs ,PBXs, carrier and VFT systems, VHF systems, microwave systems, HF transmitters and receivers, etc. The sector was reorganized into Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Department. Siemens continued monopoly in exchange equipment. In other disciplines, manufacturers of every sort had entered the field. Later on, telecommunication sector was again reorganized by forming the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB), which inherited assets and liabilities of all past organizations like, IPT&D and PT&T Department. BTTB is administered by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication.

2.3. NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

Telecommunication today is playing a vital role in fostering international understanding and goodwill. In view of the ever increasing development of technology world wide, it has become a necessity to establish appropriate forums on various aspects of development, control, regulation and co-ordination in national, regional and international levels. Bangladesh is Members of the relevant international and regional forums and discharges its obligations through dif-