present communication network, comprising of VHF and HF links, is capable of covering a substantial part of the country. Initially a few telephone exchanges were also procured from India, most of which are still operative. BDR has now about 400 radio sets with capacity ranging from 1,5 to 6 Watts.

At present the communication network of BDR includes equipment with frequency in the range from 0.5 MHz to 1000 MHz. It has its own maintenance workshop . In fact, US manufacturers supply a sizable part of the overall telecommunication equipment of BDR. Japanese suppliers are now trying to capture at least a part of this market. This was started with the supply of a number of walkie-talkies. Suppliers from other countries are not known to have made any serious effort to enter into the telecommunication market of BDR.

It is expected that the BDR will have to undertake a major task of modernizing the telecommunication network in 1992. This offers a substantial market for different equipment and services. Most of the information on telecommunication of BDR are classified. Potential suppliers should pursue subsequent developments through appropriate local contact points.

An Organogram of BDR, as relevant to procurement of various equipment can be seen in **Figure 3.5.**

3.2.5. Defense Services

Role of communication services in the Defense Services can hardly be over emphasized. Land, airborne and maritime communication and the network linking the three distinct categories of communication are considered to be the backbone for the defense of the country .

The defense services comprise of about 100,000 voluntary troops and officers and about 30,000 reserve troops. There are eight major cantonments, four Naval and three Air Force bases. The Navy has 14 vessels (frigates, patrol crafts and patrol boats) and the Air Force has 30 combat aircraft , 4 transport planes and 6 helicopters.

Presently communication needs of armed forces are catered by the defense services themselves (HF,VHF and UHF equipment) and for rest of their needs they have to depend on the services of BTTB. The defense services have a sizable share in the national budget (estimated to be roughly 35 to 40% or about US $ 700 Million). Part of their Annual Development Programs is connected with the development of various communication facilities.

Defense services belong to the Ministry of Defense. The Army Signals Corps is responsible for operation and maintenance of telecommunication services of the Army. They also make the specification for different types of procurement and are in charge of annual planning. The Air Force and Navy have separate units in their respective Headquarters for undertaking similar functions. The actual procurement for Army , Navy and Air Force is done by the Office of the Director General Defense Purchase (DGDP).

Presently Army is using VHF, HF in base and mobile communication stations. They use their own facilities with the support from the BTTB. VHF equipment of Motorola Corporation of U.S.A. are widely used. In the HF range the suppliers are Motorola, Radifon and Marconi-UK. The Navy uses telecommunication equipment of British origin to communicate with its 14 ships. As for the Air Force, they started with Russian equipment. Presently these are being