

U.S.'S BIGGEST EVER ARMS DEAL WITH IRAN

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In what is described as the biggest ever arms deal arranged by the United States Defence Department, Iran has been permitted to buy in the next few years about two billion dollar (about Rs. 1,450 crores) worth of military equipment from U.S. manufacturers. The exact value of the orders placed by Iran is not known but some Washington sources believe that this may be more than two billion dollars. About half of the orders are for the purchase of helicopters and aircraft like F-4 fighter bombers and C-130 cargo planes. Among the advanced equipment to be brought are laser bombs, the guided bomb used to hit military targets in North Vietnam. According to informed Senate sources, about 300 military personnel would be stationed in Iran for imparting training on the deployment of the military equipment being brought by Iran. The State and Defence Departments consider that the large-scale sale of arms to Iran would have a stabilising effect on the Persian Gulf area.

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