(ii) Global Positioning System (GPS)

based Upper Air System Rs. 0.84 crore

(iii) Automatic Weather Systems Rs. 0.15 crore

(iv) Automatic Rain Gauges Rs. 0.15 crore

(v) Radiation Equipment Rs. 0.16 crore

Total cost of the equipment works out to Rs. 12.30 crores

Delay in nuclear deal with USA

†4497. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether completion of nuclear deal with America is getting delayed;
- (b) the formalities that remain to be completed and by whom they were to be completed; and
 - (c) the targeted time for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) No. The Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was finalized and signed in Washington on 10 October, 2008. The Agreement came into force on 6 December, 2008.

Tightening of visa rules by Australia

†4498. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that now Australia, after Britain, has also tightened its visa rules;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the impact of it on Indian students;
- (d) the total number of foreign students that have applied for Indian $\forall isa, so far;$ and
 - ${
 m (e)}$ the details thereof alongwith the data?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) In recent months, Australia has announced strengthening of student visa checks and an overhaul of its general skilled migration programme, as per details given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The changes introduced will affect all international students including Indians; besides strengthened checks on student visa applications; students will need to meet increased

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.