

**73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Second Committee**

**Agenda Item 24
Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues**

INDIA STATEMENT

By

**Dr. Narendra Damodar Jadhav
Hon'ble Member of the Parliament**

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Mr. President,

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77.

We welcome Secretary General's reports under this agenda item.

Mr. President,

Poverty is borne out of and sustained by multiple, often interlinked causes. Lack of access to productive employment arising out of a lack of basic education, marketable skills and qualifications; disability/poor health; lack of access to basic services; and social discrimination.

At the level of nation states, structural economic problems arising out of historical contexts; lack of natural resources; natural disasters; chronic conflicts; lack of social protection; unsustainable debt burden; unfair terms of trade and investment; and policy choices sometimes imposed externally, all contribute to poverty.

In a globalised world, the consequences of poverty are no longer limited to only some parts of the globe but have much wider impacts through unrest and conflicts.

Despite steady progress being achieved in eradication of extreme poverty globally, much more needs to be done as there continue to be stark disparities in wealth distribution both within and among nations, as we commence the Third UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

Mr. President,

Targeted policy interventions to empower the poor, especially the marginalised and vulnerable sections, to improve their access to education, housing, healthcare, basic services, employment, and facilitating financial inclusion can go a long way in lifting people out of poverty.

India is taking rapid strides in eradication of extreme poverty. Millions of people in India have been lifted out of poverty over the last decade. India continues to be among the fastest growing large economies that are contributing to allocate resources to pursue a more inclusive development. Modern technological innovations are being deployed to upscale the policy interventions.

The Jan Dhan Yojana, an ambitious financial inclusion scheme, has transformed the financial inclusion efforts in India. This has led to an additional 320 million bank accounts for those poor who were outside banking net. More than one billion people have already been issued biometric-based unique identity cards known as Aadhar cards. This coupled with the use of smart phone apps has become the basis for wide ranging delivery of e-services and direct benefit transfers, especially to marginalised sections, improving transparency and cutting corruption.

Ayushman Bharat, an ambitious health insurance of a very vast scale has been launched last month by Prime Minister Modi. The scheme aims to cover 500 million people with coverage of Rs. 500,000 per family every year.

Housing is another area where our government is undertaking large scale efforts. 21 million new homes are to be constructed by 2022. Over 5 million homes for the poor have been constructed under these efforts in recent years.

Mudra scheme aims at extensive skills development programme and to turn poor into entrepreneurs. More than three fourths of the beneficiaries are women.

Under the Ujjwala scheme, 50 million free cooking gas connections have been provided to the poorer sections. This has ensured provision of clean energy that lies at the intersection of climate, health and energy access.

Mr. President,

At the same time, India is also significantly expanding its development partnerships with fellow developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States to assist them in their efforts towards poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

To conclude, I would like to say that India is home to one-sixth of global population. India's success in lifting people out of poverty for the achievement of global goals is essential. We are on the right track and are further intensifying our efforts as part of *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas* which in my mother tongue Marathi is ' Sarvana Barobar Gheun Sarvancha Vikas' to pursue inclusive sustainable development, leaving no one behind.

I thank you.