

## **GRAMIN VIKAS TRUST- WEST BENGAL**

### **Visit of Honourable Minister, Government of West Bengal to GVT stall in Purulia Ajodhya Pahar (Hill) Tourism Festival on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015**

The captioned program was inaugurated by the Tourism Minister, Government of West Bengal, Prof. Bratya Basu in the presence of Minister for SHG/SE, GoWB, Shantiram Mahato, Zilla Parishad Sabadhipati, Purulia and other officials from Tourism Board and Government line departments, extension agencies etc. The said Festival evoked immense response among the Ajodhya villagers, local community and other part of the district and State with huge numbers of Adivasi families from different Gram Sansads participated with colorful dresses and presented their traditional dances before the audience. The program venue was decorated in a nice way by the active participation of different Government line departments, Extensions agencies through their well decorated stalls.



The tourism minister, SHG Minister through their vivacious deliberation expressed satisfaction over the sea changes in Ajodhya Hills' socio-economic scenario during last four years with spontaneous inflow of Tourists to "Sundari Ajodhya" and helped to earn good revenue based on Ajodhya hill, which was totally disturbed and isolated because of the predominance of ELW activities up to 2011 April. The Ministers stressed upon the restriction of deforestation and announced that by any means the beauty of Ajodhya have to be maintained by plantation and creating new avenues in Eco Tourism in PPP mode by involving all stakeholders already involved in Ajodhya Hill's development initiatives and also cautioned that any trespassers in the forest would be highly penalized.



Gramin Vikas Trust was invited to participate in the program, as GVT is being associated in the Orchard development (Wadi) program and other development programs of the Hill with active emancipation of 800 tribal families from 57 villages under four Gram Panchayats of Baghmundi Block, Purulia and Ajodhya is one of them, with the support from NABARD, Kolkata. Honourable Mister requested GVT to take some innovative strategy, programs for beautification of Ajodhya in consultation with

the State Government, District Administration. The **SHG, SE Minister, Shri. Shantiram Mahato** and Government Officials visited GVT's two stalls, and highly appreciated GVT's relentless effort in bringing the Tribal families of Ajodhya towards the balanced path of sustainable development based on Orchard development programs and assured their full support for any sort of future collaboration in this regard in future. The stalls were well decorated GVT's initiatives in West Bengal with special focus to Ajodhya Pahar( hill) through different posters, charts, photos Wadi, Financial Inclusion, Intensive Sanitation, SHG based Micro Fiancé/livelihoods which drew immense attention of the cross section of the people, especially resource poor/ultra poor farming community of the locality.

