

Cobb - Douglas equation:

$$Y = AK^\alpha L^\beta \text{ — (i)}$$

Assuming perfect competition,

$$\alpha + \beta = 1 \text{ — (ii)}$$

Isocost equation:

$$C = wL + rK \text{ — (iii)}$$

We assume,

$$w = 5,$$

$$r = 10,$$

$$Y = 500,$$

$$\alpha = 0.3$$

$$A = 2$$

$$(ii) \Rightarrow$$

$$\beta = 0.7$$

$$(i) \Rightarrow$$

$$500 = 2 K^{0.3} L^{0.7} \text{ — (iv)}$$

$$(iii) \Rightarrow$$

$$C = 5L + 10K$$

Differentiating,

$$\frac{dK}{dL} = -\frac{w}{r} = -0.5 \text{ — (v)}$$

By taking partial derivative of (i), we get,

$$dY = \frac{\partial Y}{\partial K} dK + \frac{\partial Y}{\partial L} dL$$

= 0 (since quantity is constant in an isoquant graph)

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dK}{dL} = - \frac{\partial Y / \partial L}{\partial Y / \partial K} \quad \text{--- (vi)}$$

From (iv),

$$\frac{\partial Y}{\partial L} = 0.7 \times 2 K^{0.3} L^{-0.3}$$

$$\frac{\partial Y}{\partial K} = 0.3 \times 2 K^{-0.7} L^{0.7}$$

$$(iv) \Rightarrow (vi) \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{dK}{dL} = - \frac{0.7K}{0.3L}$$

$$= -0.5 \text{ [From (v)]}$$

$$\Rightarrow K = \frac{3L}{14} \quad \text{--- (vii)}$$

$$(iv) \& (vii) \Rightarrow$$

$$500 = 2 \left(\frac{3L}{14} \right)^{0.3} L^{0.7} = 2L \left(\frac{3}{14} \right)^{0.3}$$

$$\Rightarrow L = 396.86, \quad (vii) \Rightarrow K = 85.04$$