



LAW OF VARIABLE PROPORTION AND LAW OF RETURNS TO SCALE

[FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS]

Subject	:	Business Economics
Paper No. & Title	:	101 Microeconomics - I
Unit No. & Title	:	3 Production
Lecture No & Title	:	3 Law of Variable Proportion And Law of Returns to scale

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q-1. Define Law of variable proportion?

A-1. Keeping other factors of production fixed when only one variable factor of production is changed, output initially increases more than proportionately, then proportionately and finally less than proportionately.

Q-2. What is increasing returns to variable proportion?

A-2. When one of the variable factors (labour) is increased, output initially increases more than proportionately, which is known as the stage of increasing returns.

Q-3. What are the causes of increasing returns to variable proportion?

A-3. Increasing returns take place when more and more of variable factors are added to the fixed factors, then fixed factors are used efficiently, and variable factors are specialised perfectly, which results in higher returns.

Q-4. What are the causes of negative returns to variable proportion?

A-4. When more and more of variable factors are added to fixed factors, in the later stage fixed factors are overburdened and marginal productivity declines, hence total production declines in spite of an increase in variable factors.

Q-5. Explain the concept of Returns to scale?

A-5. In long run when firm increase all factors of production simultaneously and improve in its scale of operation then output increases initially at increasing rate then at constant rate and finally at diminishing rate.

Q-6. Why the stage of Diminishing returns to scale takes place?

A-6. In long run, when firm grows large in its later stage it suffers from certain diseconomies of scale which result in diminishing returns to scale.

Q-7. What are economies of scale?

A-7. Economies of scale are the advantages the firm enjoys because of its large scale production.

Q-8. What are diseconomies of scale?

A-8. Diseconomies of scale are the disadvantages the firm incur during long term because of its large size.