QUESTION

A firm uses two inputs, K and L to manufacture final product. The price per unit of these inputs are sh. 20 and sh. 4 respectively. What combination of inputs should a firm use to maximize output given that the budget is fixed at sh. 390?

SOLUTION

Let the manufactory of *K* produce *x* units of the finished product, and the manufactory of *L* - *y* units.

Then, the total number of products produced is

$$Units(x, y) = x + y$$

According to the problem: the manufacture *K* pay *sh*. 20 for each unit and the manufacture *L* - *sh*. 4.

Then, the total amount of money spent is

$$Cost(x, y) = 20x + 4y$$

By the condition of the task, the amount of money spent is fixed and equal

$$Cost(x, y) = 390 \rightarrow 20x + 4y = 390$$

Now we can write the given problem in symbolic form:

$$\begin{cases} \max(Cost(x+y)) = \max(x+y) \\ 20x + 4y = 390 \\ x \ge 0 \\ y \ge 0 \\ x, y \in \mathbb{N} \end{cases}$$

Then,

$$20x + 4y = 390 \to 4y = 390 - 20x| \div (4) \to y = \frac{390}{4} - \frac{20x}{4} \to \boxed{y = \frac{195}{2} - 5x}$$
$$\max(x, y) = x + y = \frac{195}{2} - 5x + x = \frac{195}{2} - 4x \to \boxed{\max(x, y) = \frac{195}{2} - 4x}$$

As we can see,

$$\max(x, y) = \frac{195}{2} - 4x - decreasing linear function \ \forall x \ge 0$$

Then,

$$\max(x, y) = \frac{195}{2} - 4x \to \frac{195}{2} - for \ x = 0.$$
$$\begin{cases} 20x + 4y = 390 \\ x = 0 \end{cases} \to 4y = 390 \to y = \frac{195}{2} = 97.5 \end{cases}$$

But, y is the number of products manufactured, it can only be an integer, so y = 97.

Conclusion,

$$\max(Cost(x, y)) = \max(x + y) = 97$$

ANSWER:

$$\max_{\substack{\{20x+4y=390\\x,y\ge0}} (x+y) = 97$$